DANIEL WARREN JOHNSON JORGE CORONA MIKE SPICER

TRANSFORMERS

#18

ENERGON UNIVERSE

TRANSFORMERS

ISSUE EIGHTEEN

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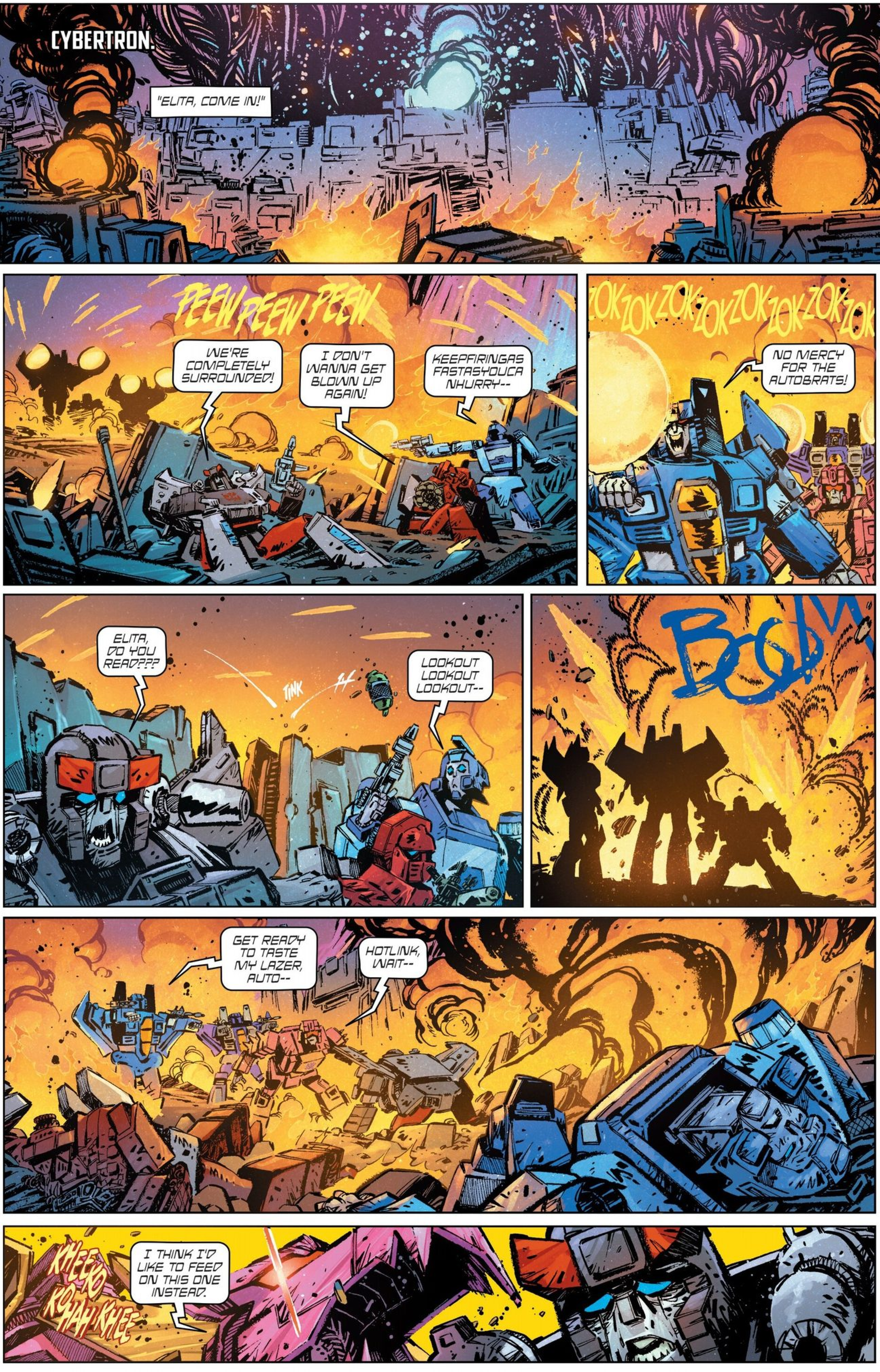
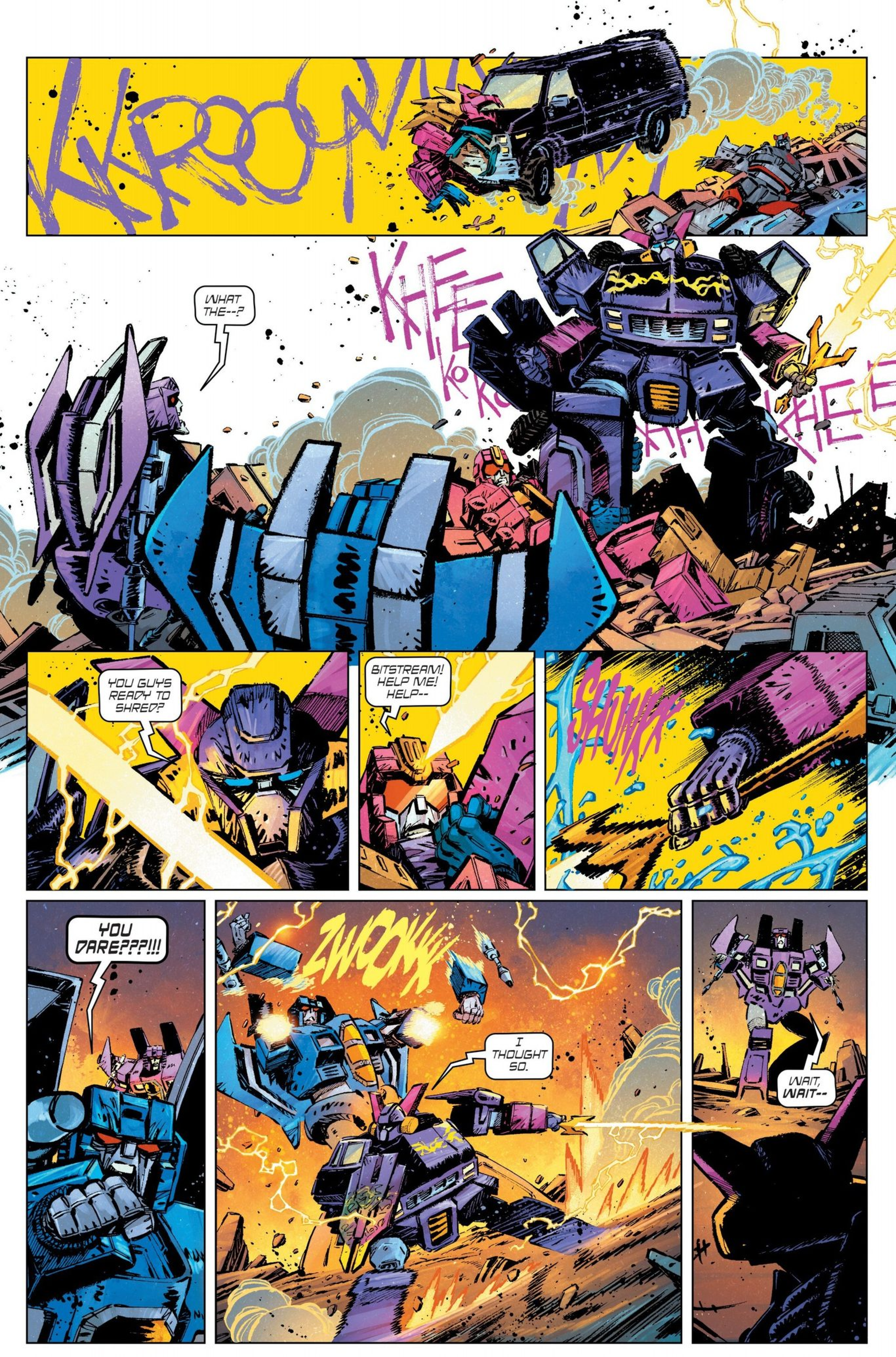
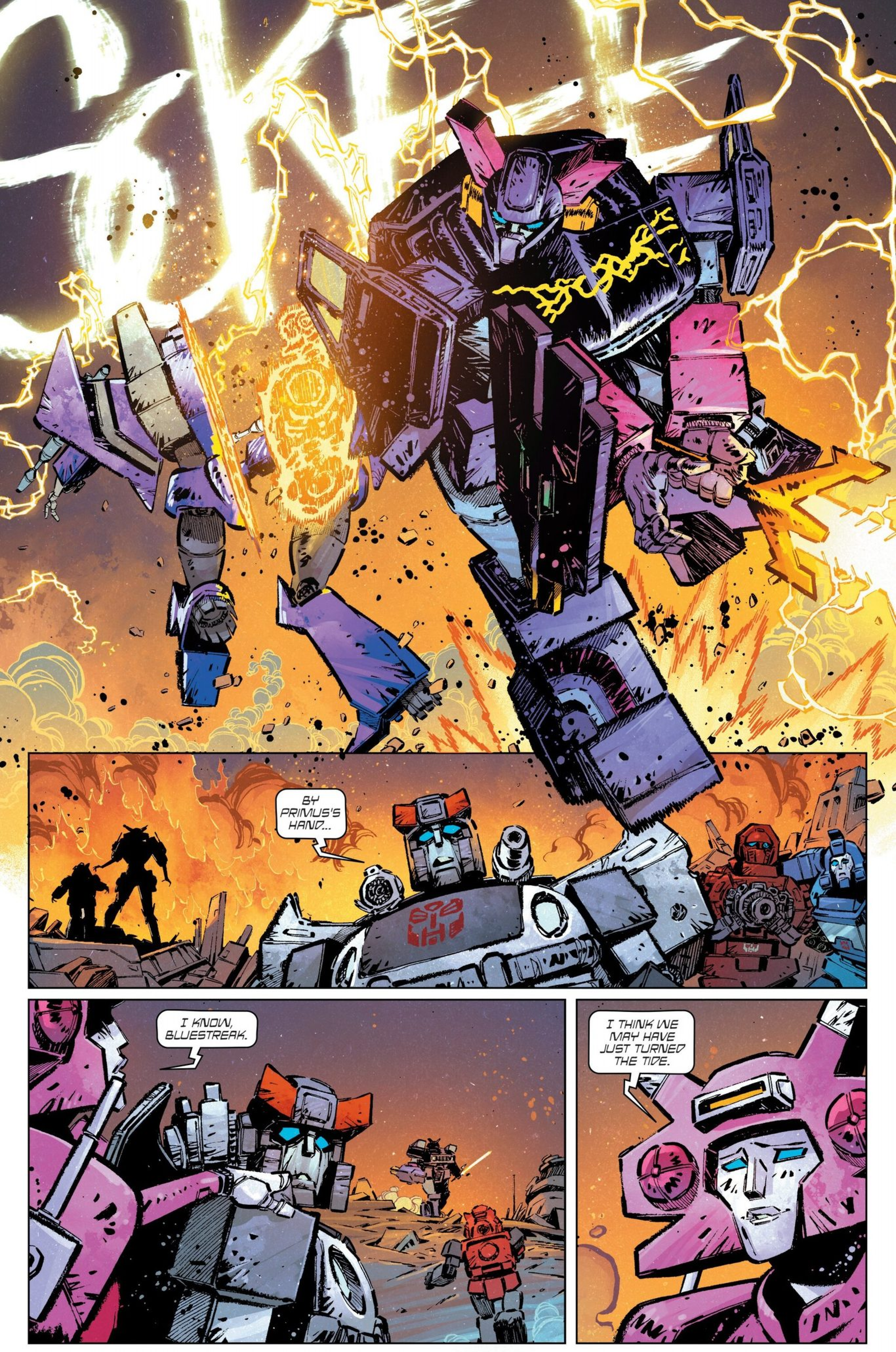
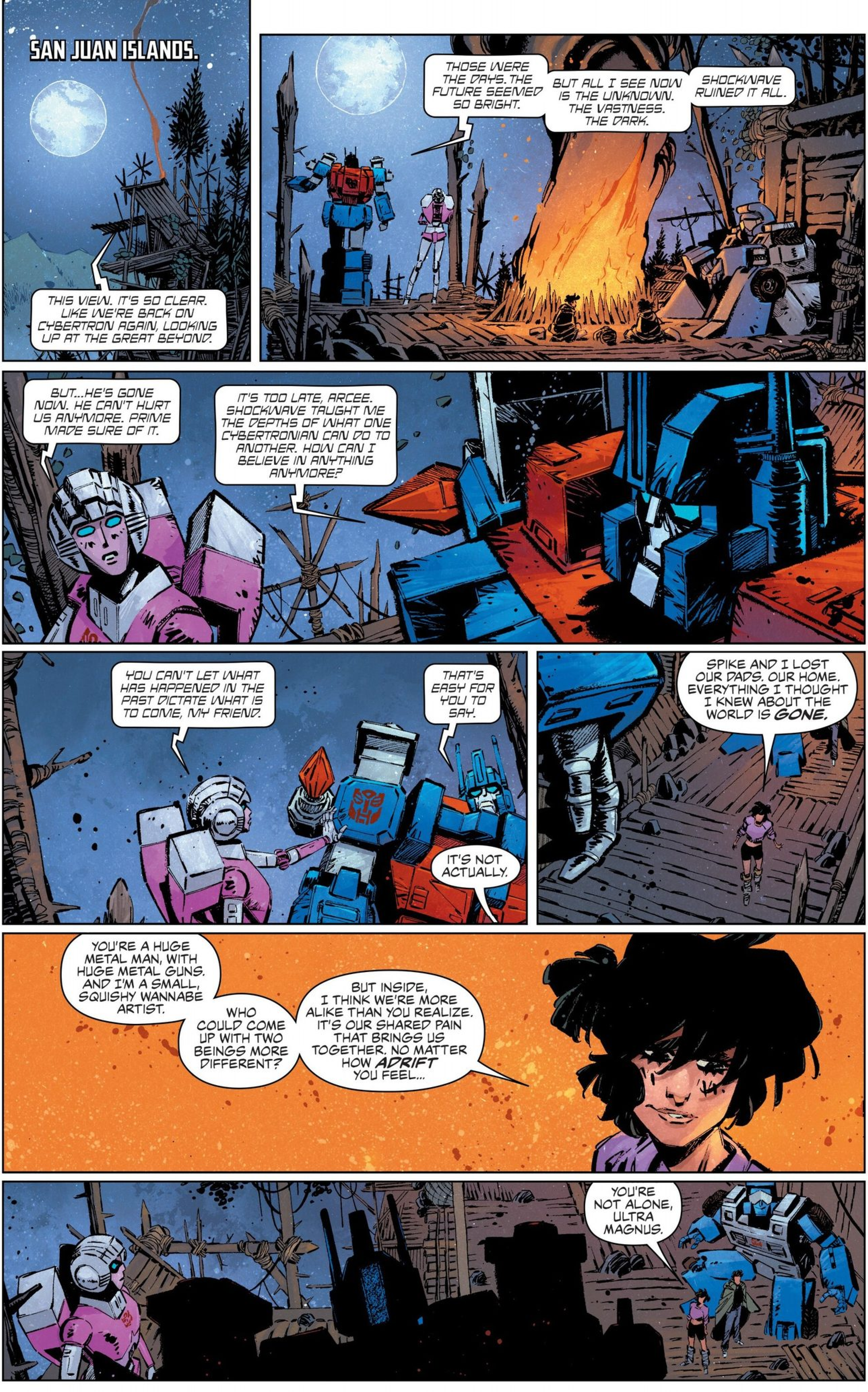
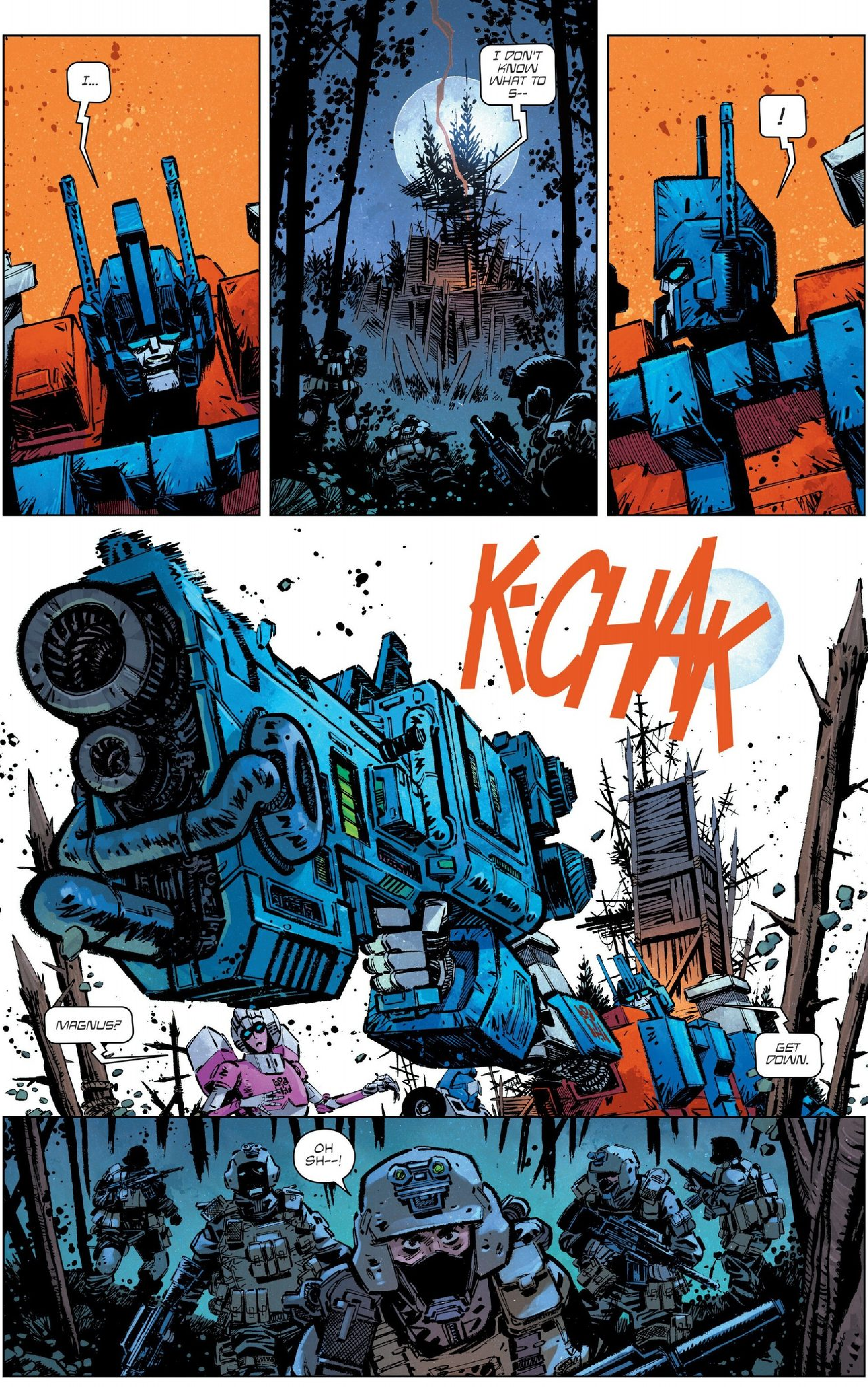
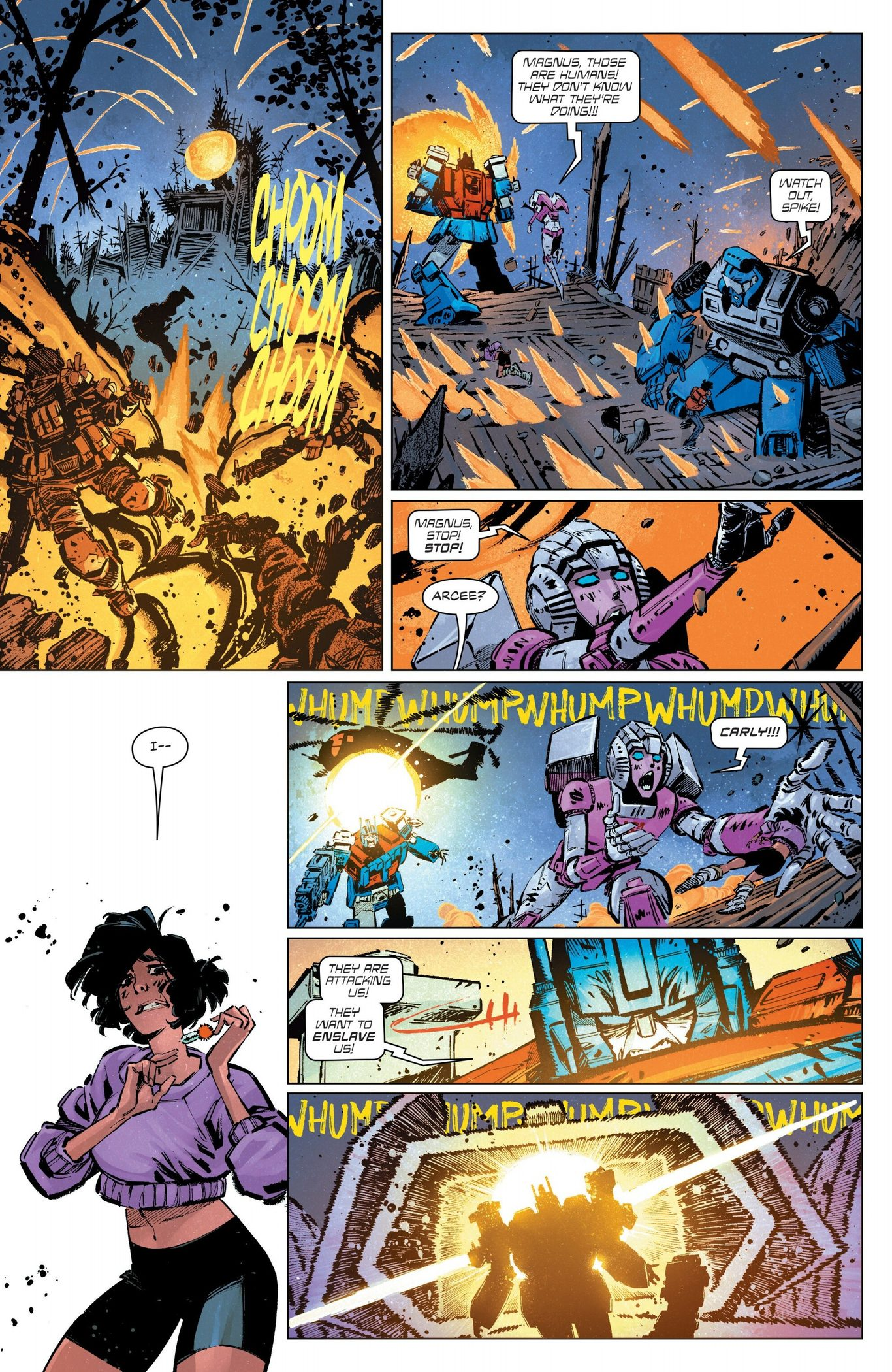

CYBERTRON.
"ELITA, COME IN!"
PEEW PEEW PEEW
WE'RE COMPLETELY SURROUNDED!
I DON'T WANNA GET BLOWN UP AGAIN!
KEEPFIRINGAS FASTASYOUCA NHURRY--
ZOK ZOK ZOK ZOK ZOK ZOK ZOK ZOK ZOK
NO MERCY FOR THE AUTOBRATS!
ELITA, DO YOU READ???
TINK
LOOKOUT LOOKOUT LOOKOUT--
BOOM
GET READY TO TASTE MY LAZER, AUTO--
HOTLINK, WAIT--
KHEEKO KOHAH KHEE
I THINK I'D LIKE TO FEED ON THIS ONE INSTEAD.

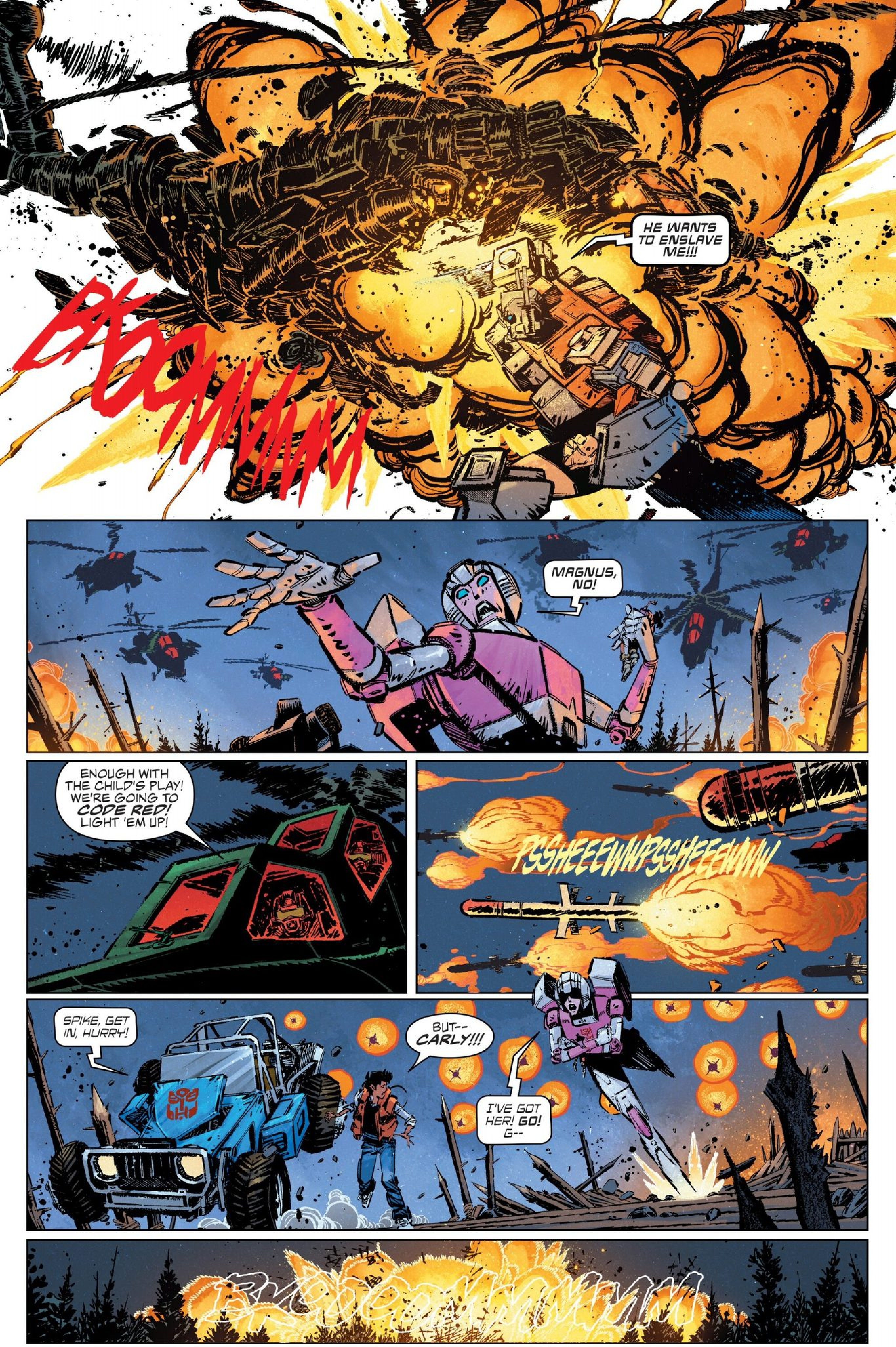

KKROOOM
WHAT THE--?
KHEE
KO KO
KHEE
YOU GUYS READY TO SHRED?
BITSTREAM! HELP ME! HELP--
SHUNK
YOU DARE???!!!
ZWONK
I THOUGHT SO.
WAIT, WAIT--

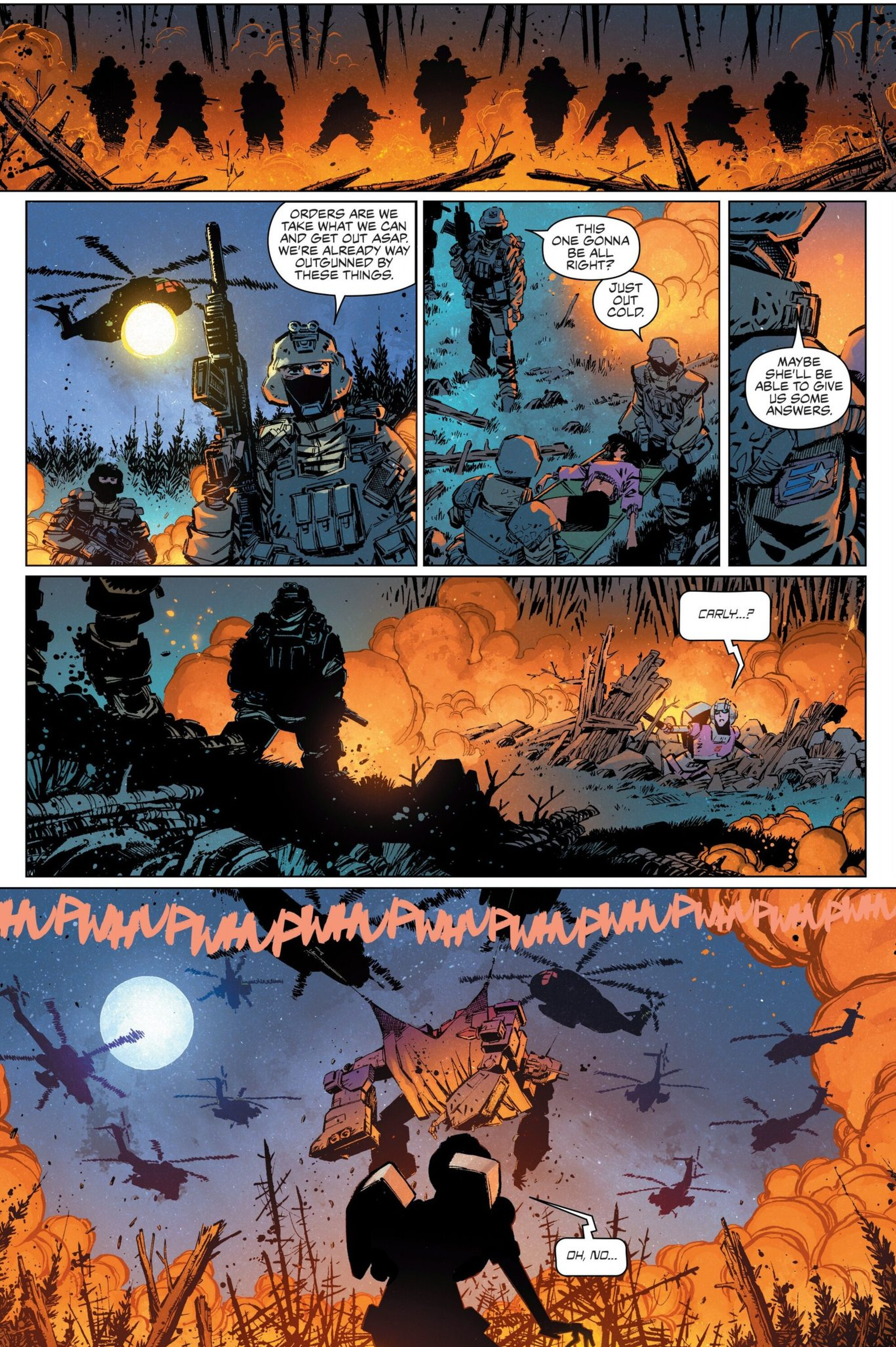

BY PRIMUS'S HAND...
I KNOW, BLUESTREAK.
I THINK WE MAY HAVE JUST TURNED THE TIDE.

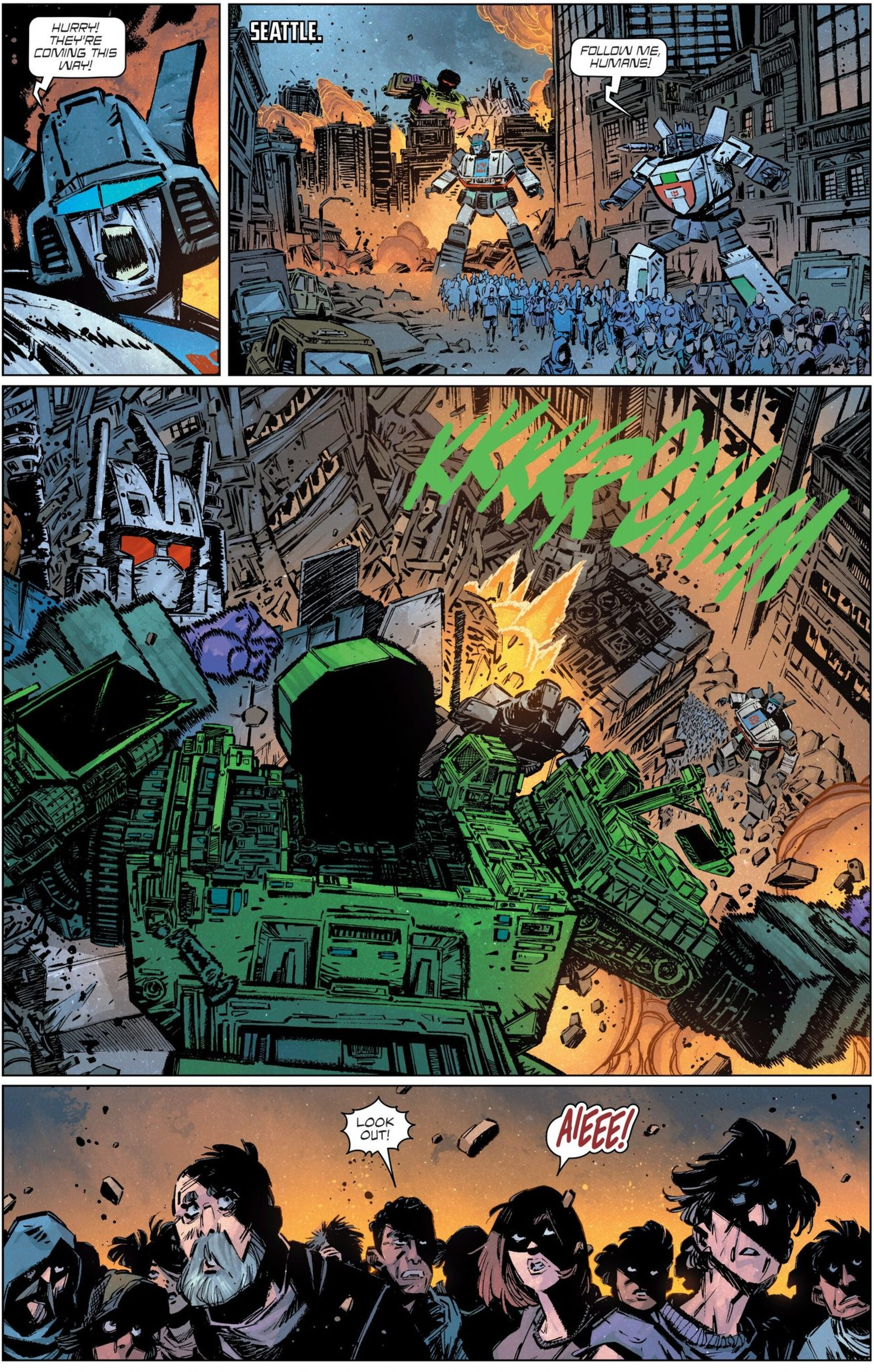

SAN JUAN ISLANDS.
THIS VIEW. IT'S SO CLEAR. LIKE WE'RE BACK ON CYBERTRON AGAIN, LOOKING UP AT THE GREAT BEYOND.
THOSE WERE THE DAYS. THE FUTURE SEEMED SO BRIGHT.
BUT ALL I SEE NOW IS THE UNKNOWN. THE VASTNESS. THE DARK.
SHOCKWAVE RUINED IT ALL.
BUT...HE'S GONE NOW. HE CAN'T HURT US ANYMORE. PRIME MADE SURE OF IT.
IT'S TOO LATE, ARCEE. SHOCKWAVE TAUGHT ME THE DEPTHS OF WHAT ONE CYBERTRONIAN CAN DO TO ANOTHER. HOW CAN I BELIEVE IN ANYTHING ANYMORE?
YOU CAN'T LET WHAT HAS HAPPENED IN THE PAST DICTATE WHAT IS TO COME, MY FRIEND.
THAT'S EASY FOR YOU TO SAY.
IT'S NOT ACTUALLY.
SPIKE AND I LOST OUR DADS. OUR HOME. EVERYTHING I THOUGHT I KNEW ABOUT THE WORLD IS GONE.
YOU'RE A HUGE METAL MAN, WITH HUGE METAL GUNS. AND I'M A SMALL, SQUISHY WANNABE ARTIST.
WHO COULD COME UP WITH TWO BEINGS MORE DIFFERENT?
BUT INSIDE, I THINK WE'RE MORE ALIKE THAN YOU REALIZE. IT'S OUR SHARED PAIN THAT BRINGS US TOGETHER. NO MATTER HOW ADRIFT YOU FEEL...
YOU'RE NOT ALONE, ULTRA MAGNUS.

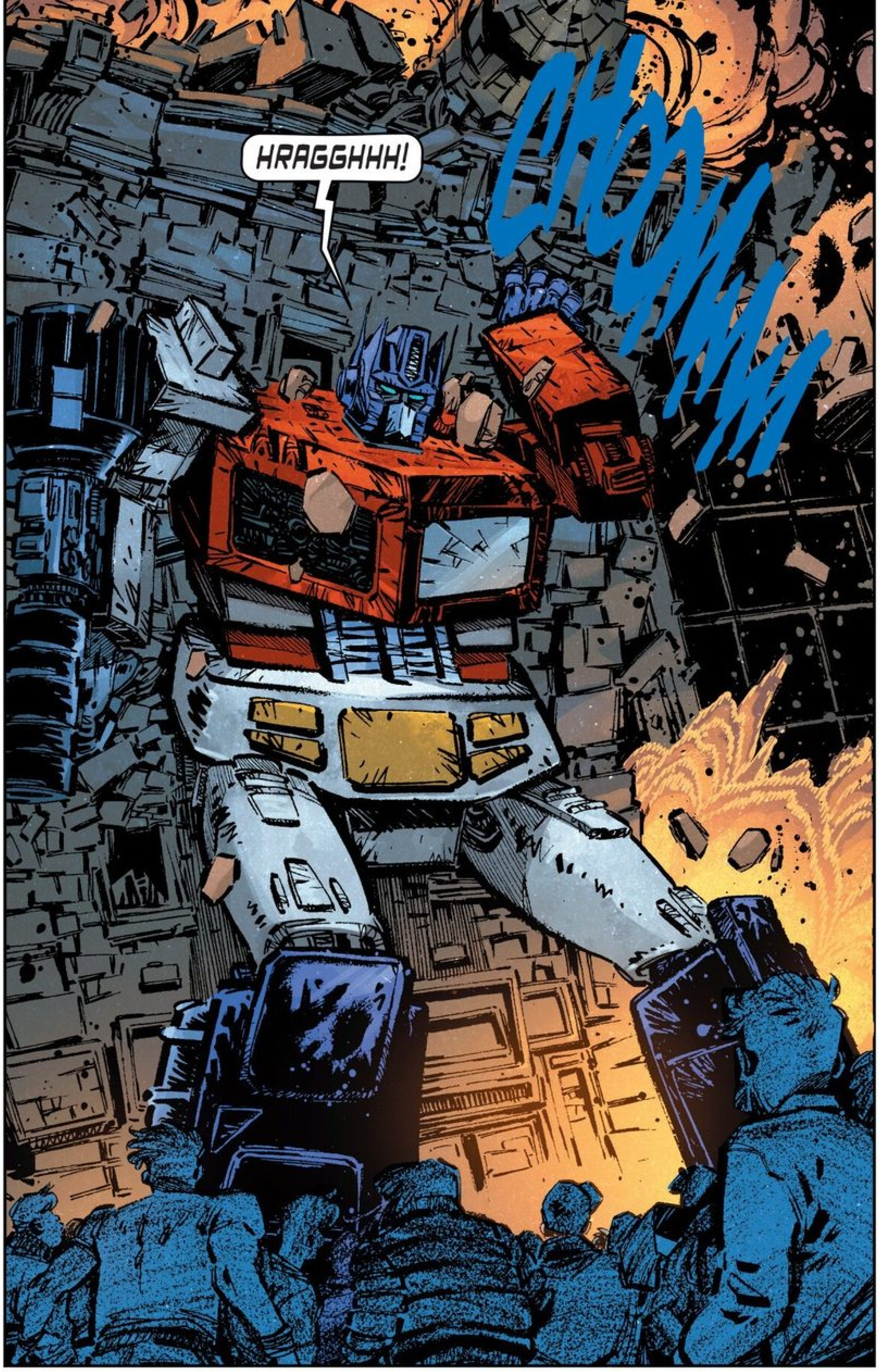

I...
I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO S--
!
K-CHAK
MAGNUS?
GET DOWN.
OH SH--!

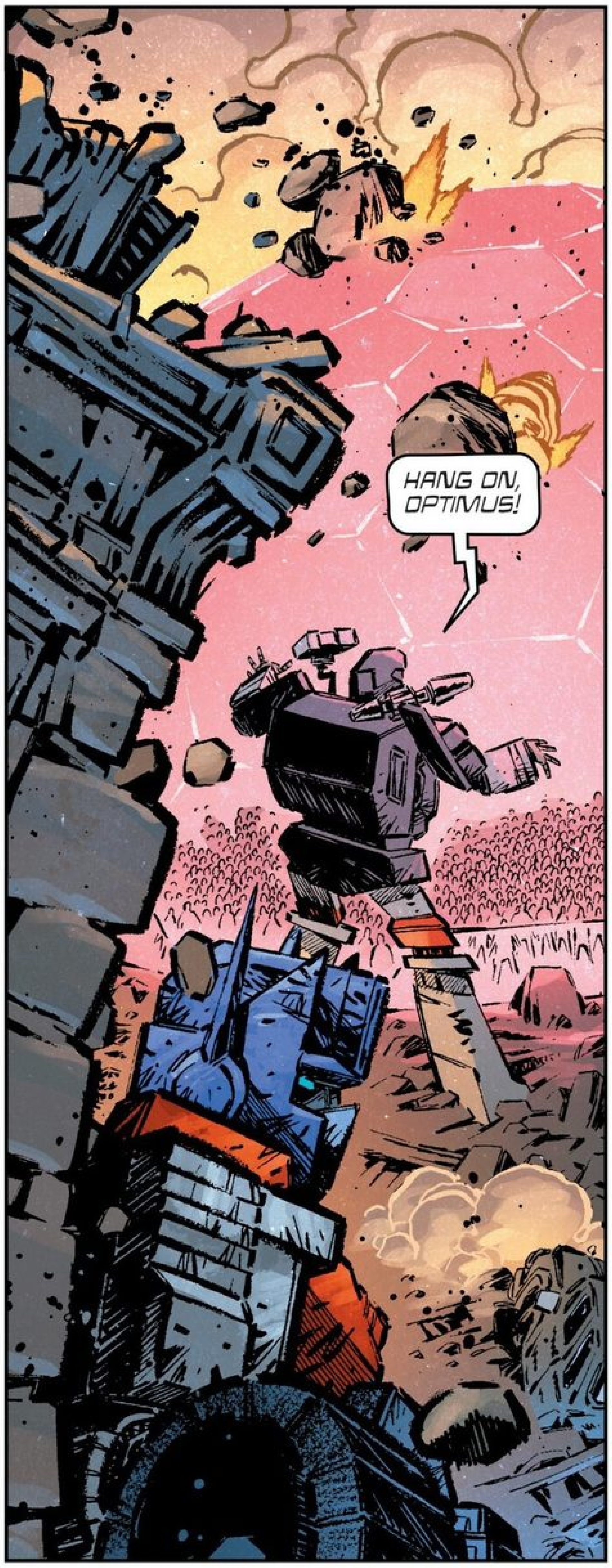

CHOOM
CHOOM
CHOOM
MAGNUS, THOSE ARE HUMANS! THEY DON'T KNOW WHAT THEY'RE DOING!!!
WATCH OUT, SPIKE!
MAGNUS, STOP! **STOP!**
ARCEE?
I--
WHUMPWHUMPWHUMPWHUMPWHU
CARLY!!!
THEY ARE ATTACKING US!
THEY WANT TO **ENSLAVE** US!
WHUMPWHUMPWHUMPWHUMPWHUM

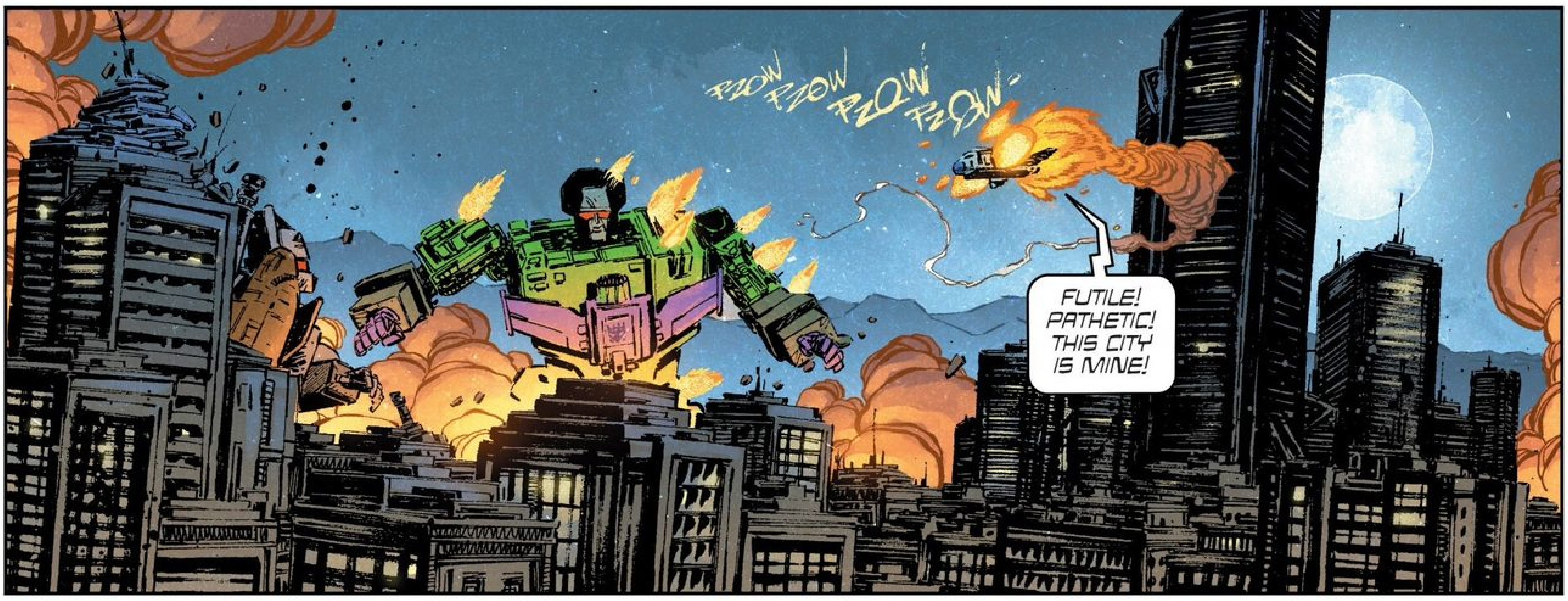

BOOMMMMM
HE WANTS TO ENSLAVE ME!!!
MAGNUS, NO!
ENOUGH WITH THE CHILD'S PLAY! WE'RE GOING TO ***CODE RED!*** LIGHT 'EM UP!
PSSHEEEWWPSSHEEEWWW
SPIKE, GET IN, HURRY!
BUT-- ***CARLY!!!***
I'VE GOT HER! **GO!** G--
BKOOOMMMMMMM

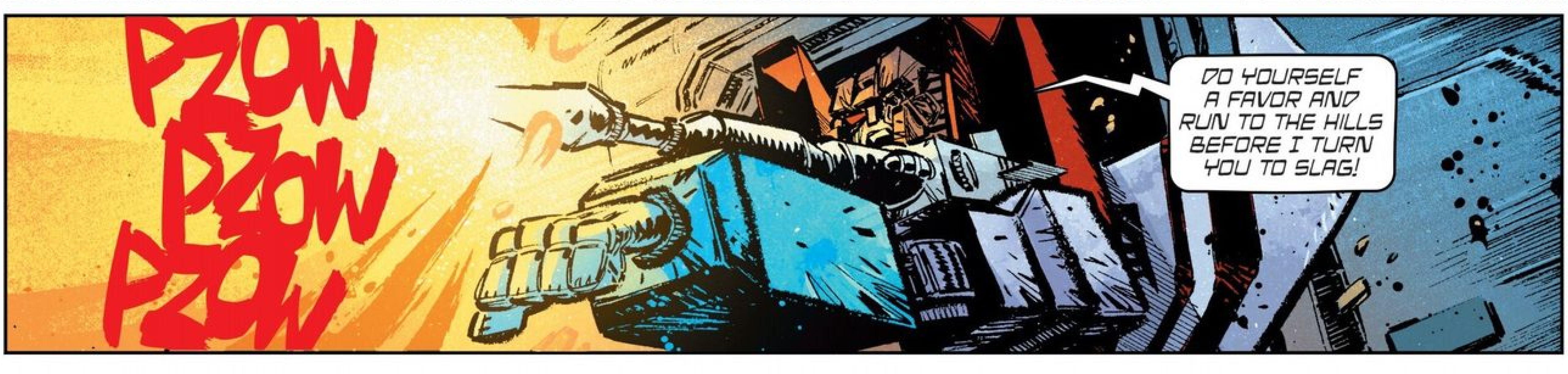

ORDERS ARE WE TAKE WHAT WE CAN AND GET OUT ASAP. WE'RE ALREADY WAY OUTGUNNED BY THESE THINGS.
THIS ONE GONNA BE ALL RIGHT?
JUST OUT COLD.
MAYBE SHE'LL BE ABLE TO GIVE US SOME ANSWERS.
CARLY...?
HUPWHUPWHUPWHUPWHUPWHUPWHUPWHUPWHUPWH
OH, NO...

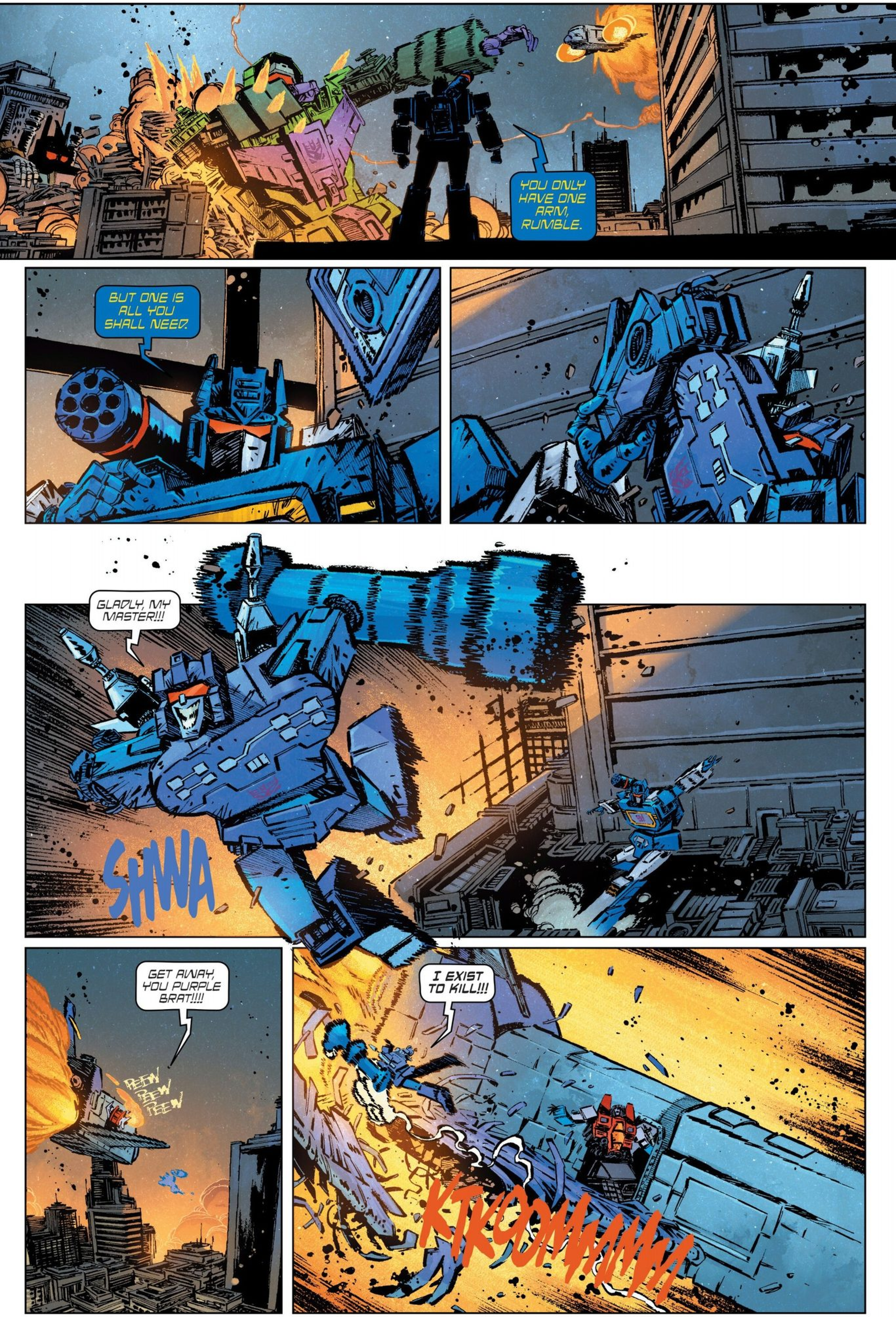

HURRY! THEY'RE COMING THIS WAY!
SEATTLE.
FOLLOW ME, HUMANS!
KKKROWMMM
LOOK OUT!
AIEEE!

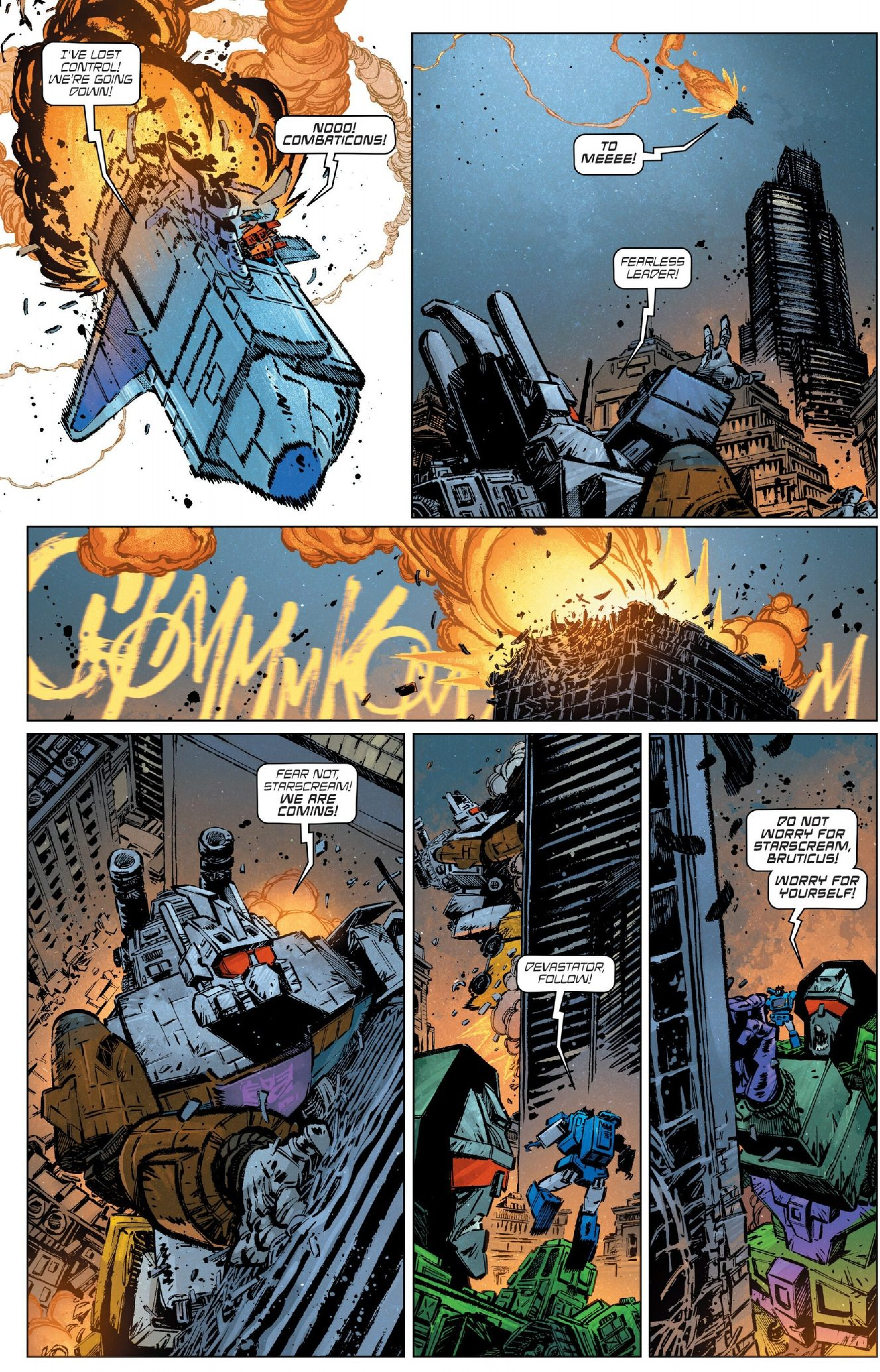

CHOOMMM
HRAGGHHH!

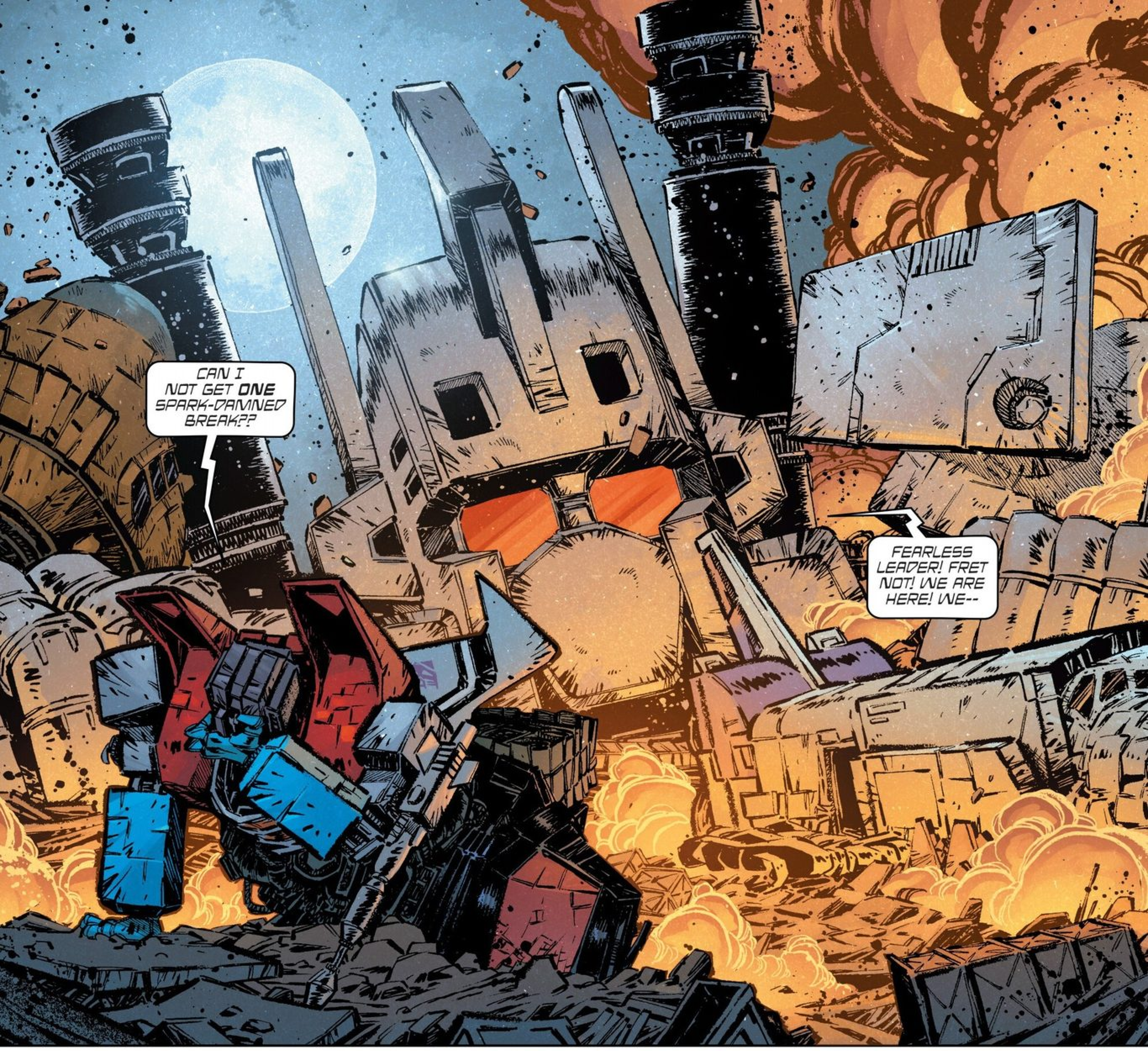

HANG ON, OPTIMUS!

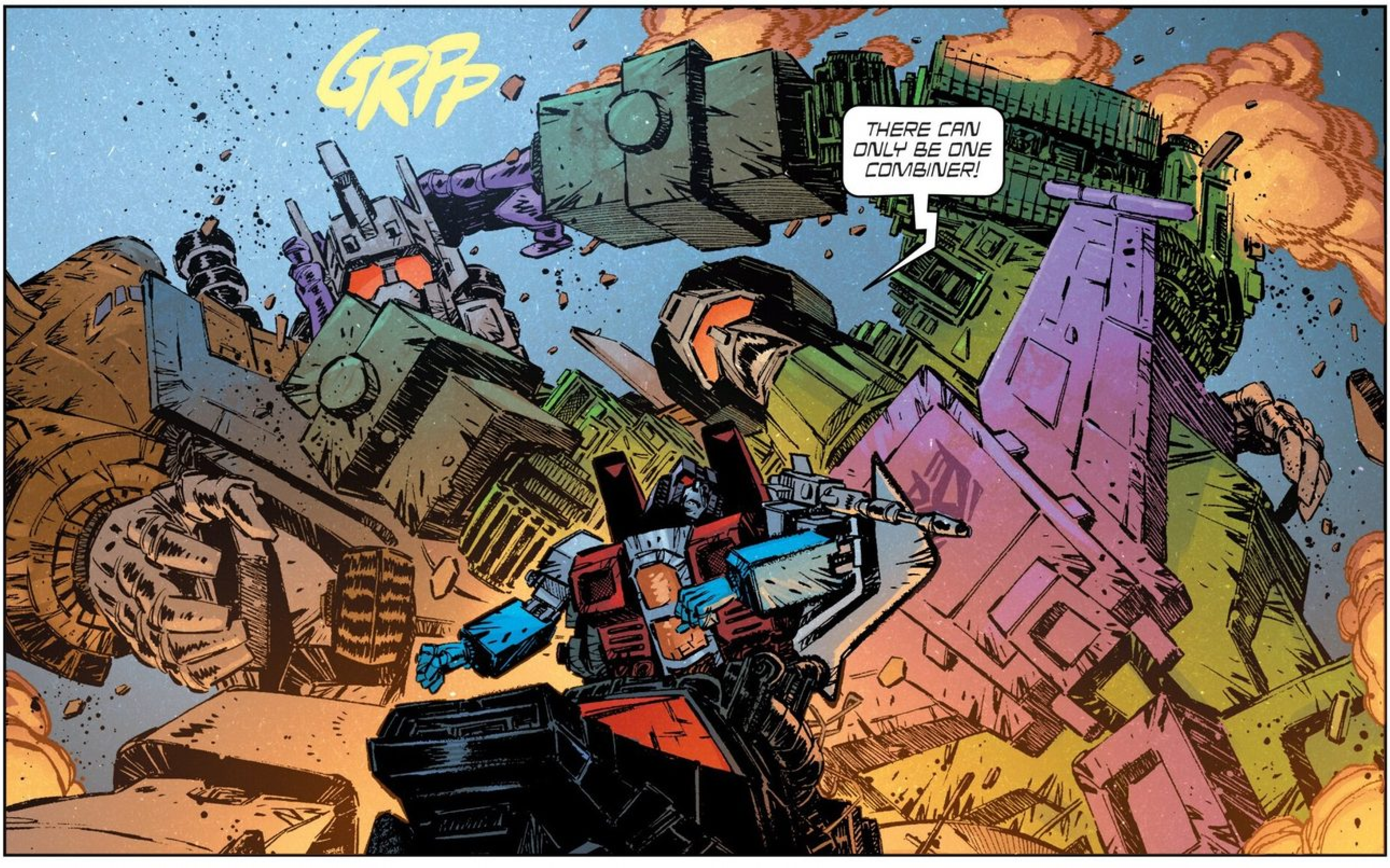

PZOW PZOW PZOW PZOW
FUTILE! PATHETIC! THIS CITY IS MINE!

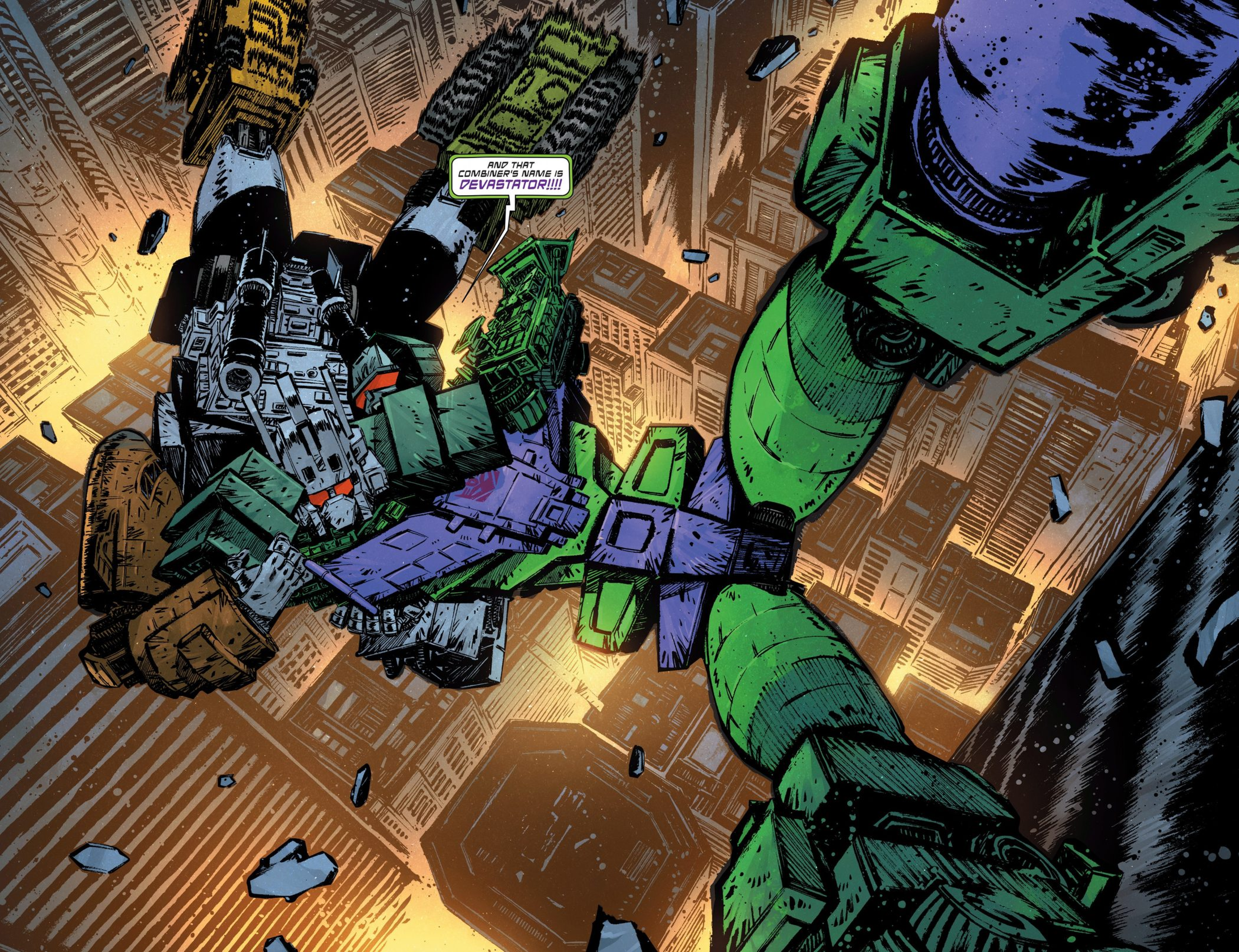

PZOW PZOW PZOW
DO YOURSELF A FAVOR AND RUN TO THE HILLS BEFORE I TURN YOU TO SLAG!

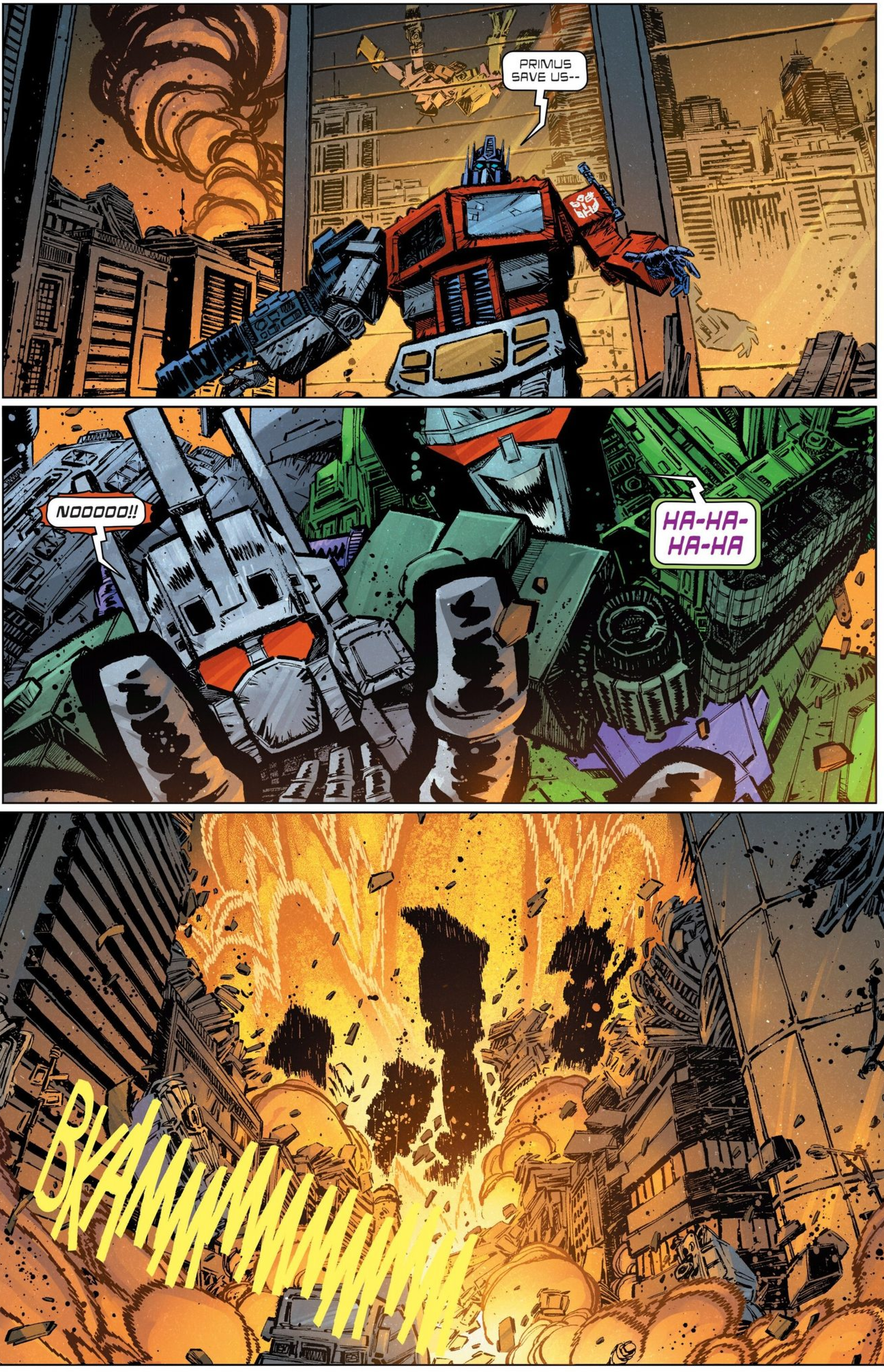

YOU ONLY HAVE ONE ARM, RUMBLE.
BUT ONE IS ALL YOU SHALL NEED.
GLADLY, MY MASTER!!!
SHWA
GET AWAY, YOU PURPLE BRAT!!!!
PEEW PEEW PEEW
I EXIST TO KILL!!!
KTKOOMMMMM

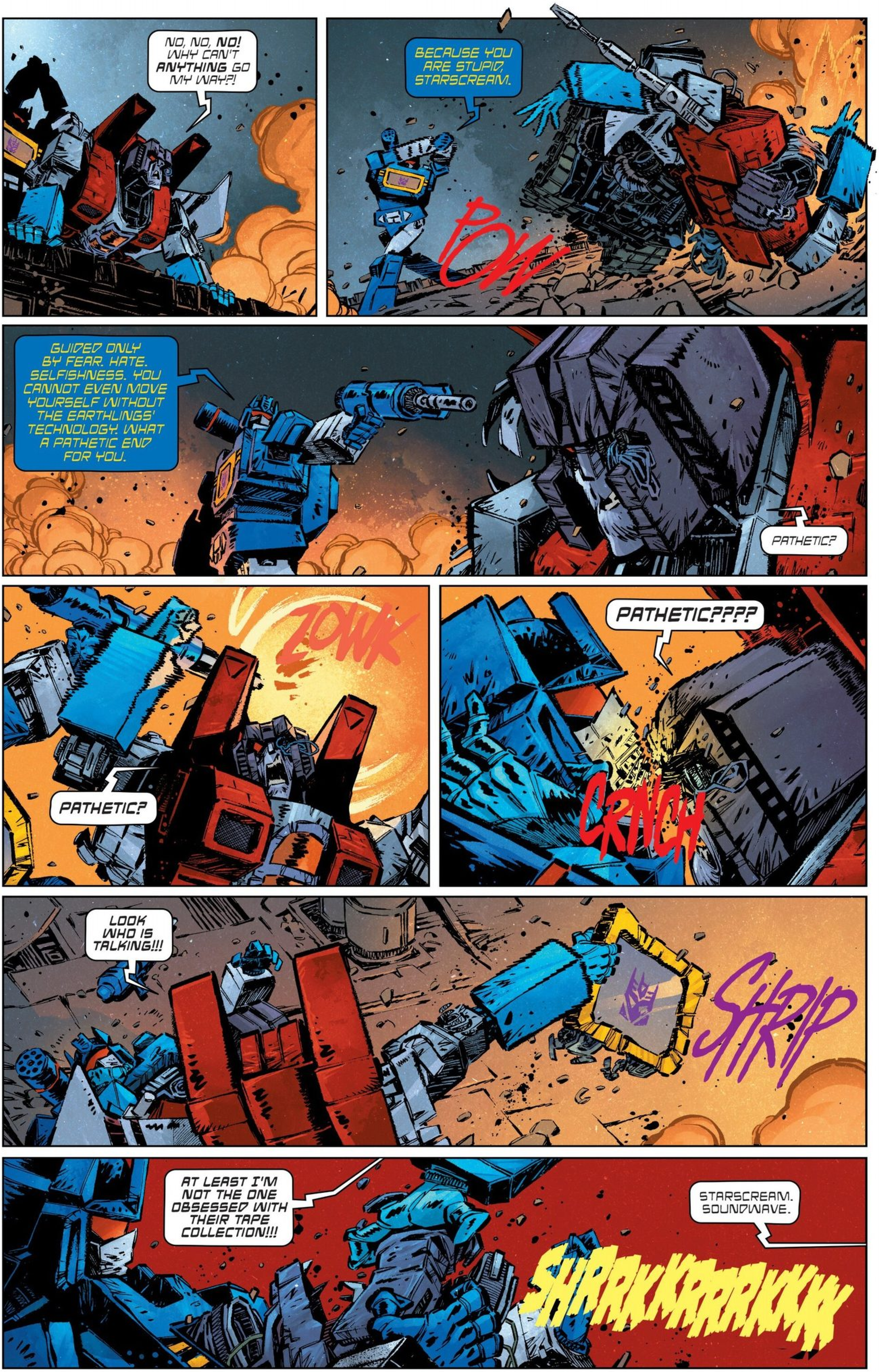

I'VE LOST CONTROL! WE'RE GOING DOWN!
NOOO! COMBATICONS!
TO MEEEE!
FEARLESS LEADER!
FEAR NOT, STARSCREAM! WE ARE COMING!
DEVASTATOR, FOLLOW!
DO NOT WORRY FOR STARSCREAM, BRUTICUS!
WORRY FOR YOURSELF!

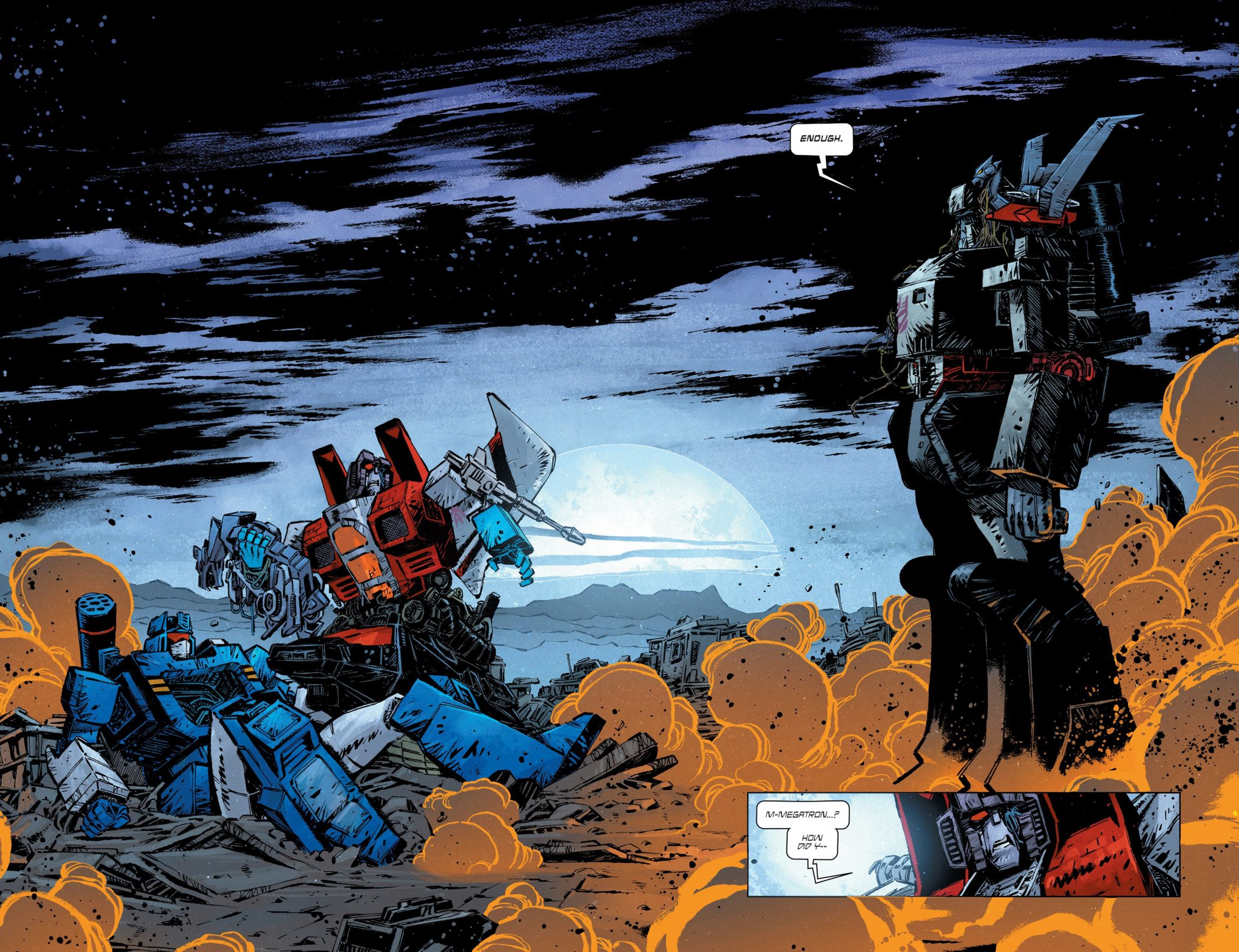

CAN I NOT GET **ONE** SPARK-DAMNED BREAK??
FEARLESS LEADER! FRET NOT! WE ARE HERE! WE--

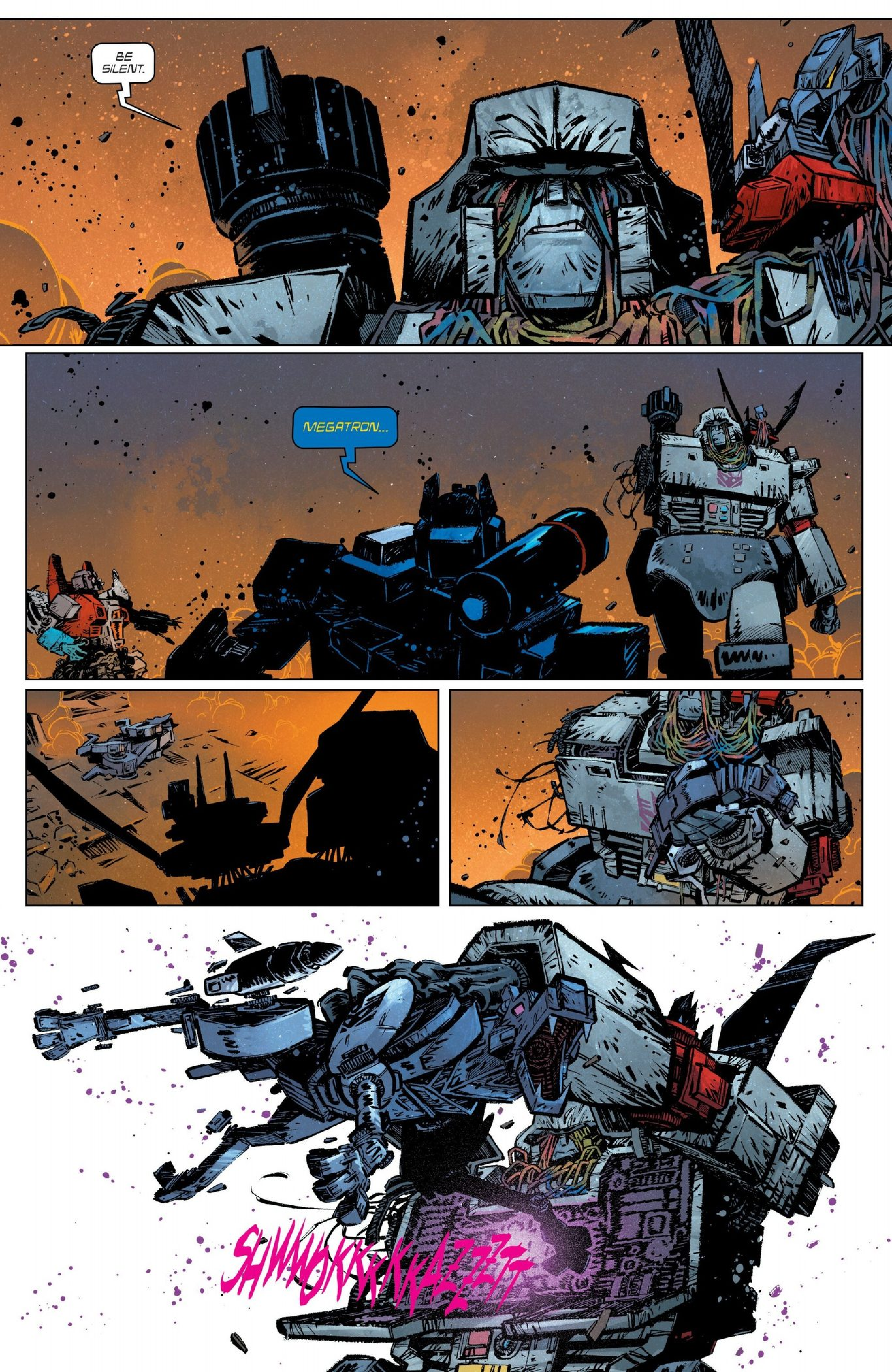

GRPP
THERE CAN ONLY BE ONE COMBINER!

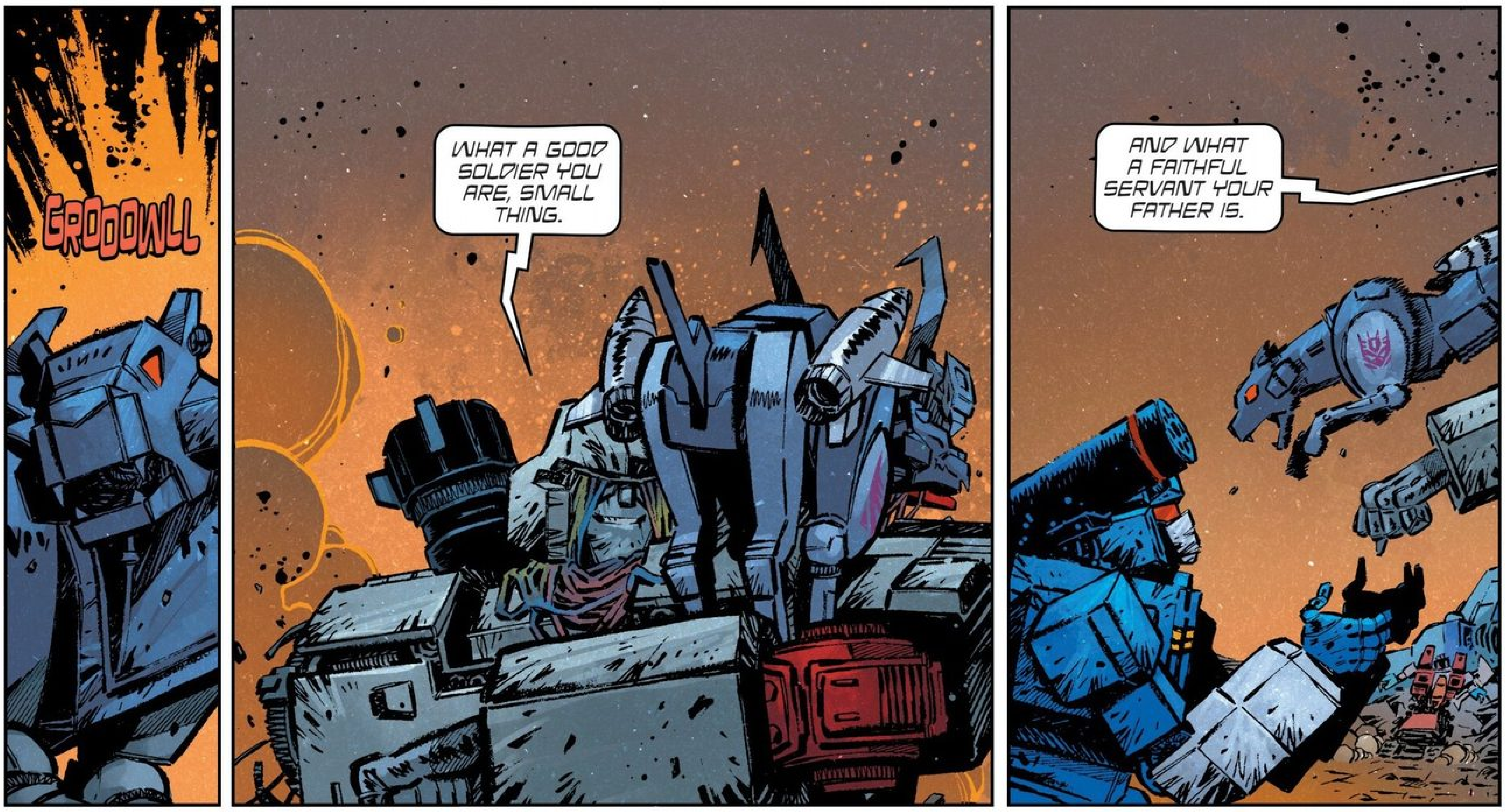

AND THAT COMBINER'S NAME IS DEVASTATOR!!!!

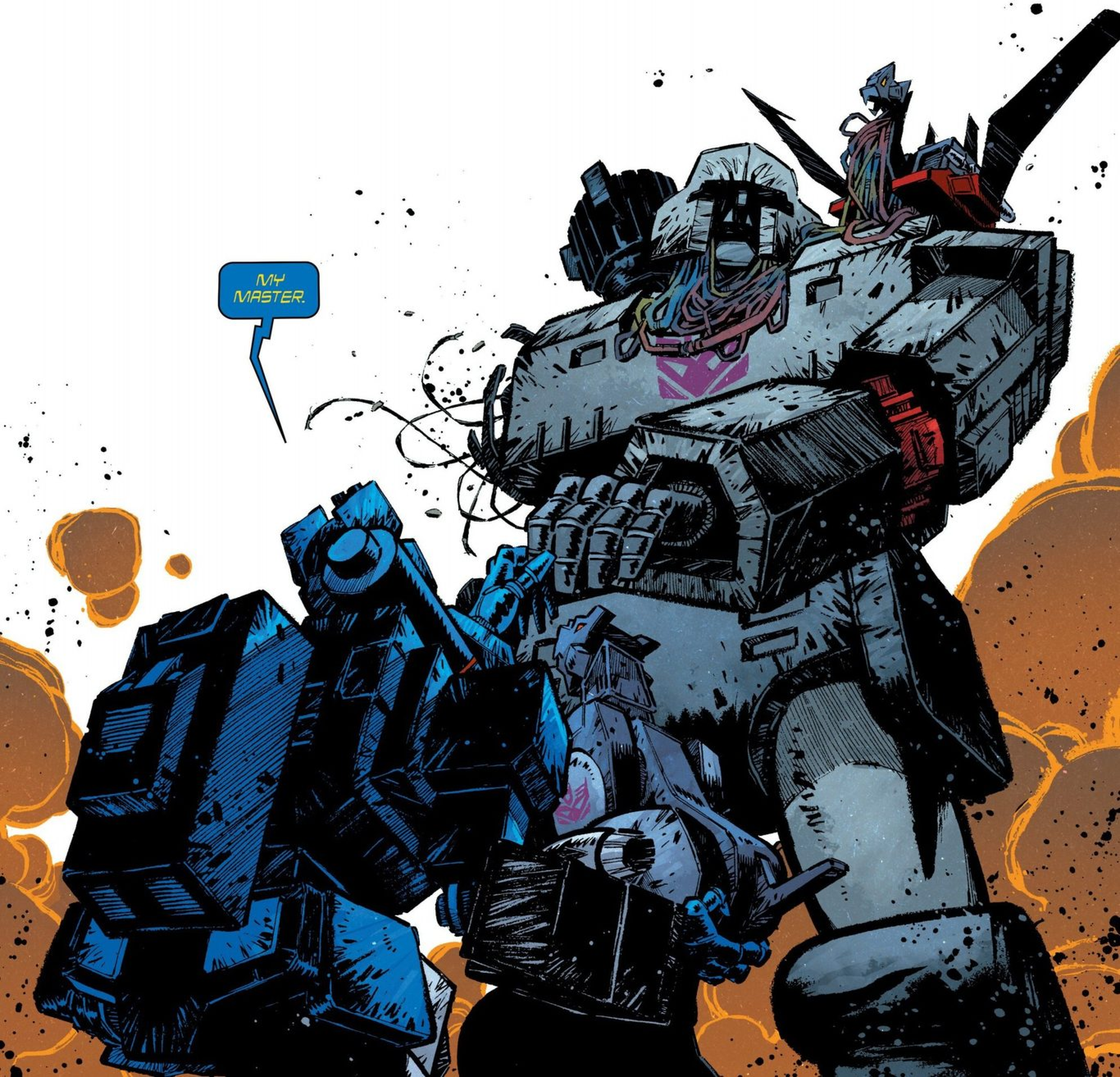

PRIMUS SAVE US--
NOOOOO!!
HA-HA-HA-HA
BRAMMMMMMMMMM

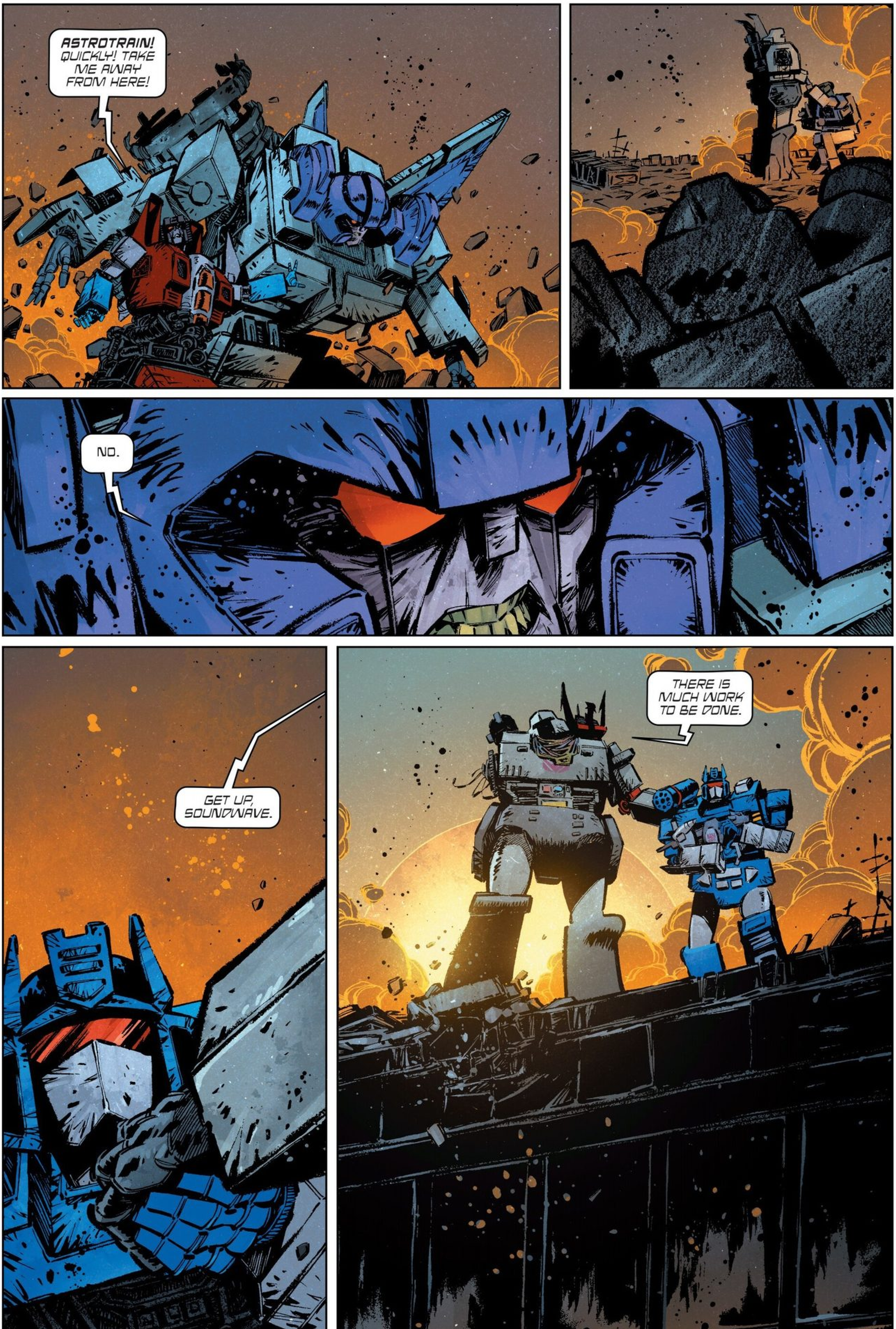

NO, NO, NO! WHY CAN'T ANYTHING GO MY WAY?!
BECAUSE YOU ARE STUPID, STARSCREAM.
POW
GUIDED ONLY BY FEAR. HATE. SELFISHNESS. YOU CANNOT EVEN MOVE YOURSELF WITHOUT THE EARTHLINGS' TECHNOLOGY. WHAT A PATHETIC END FOR YOU.
PATHETIC?
ZOWK
PATHETIC?
PATHETIC????
CRNCH
LOOK WHO IS TALKING!!!
SHRIP
AT LEAST I'M NOT THE ONE OBSESSED WITH THEIR TAPE COLLECTION!!!
STARSCREAM. SOUNDWAVE.
SHRRKKRRRKKKK

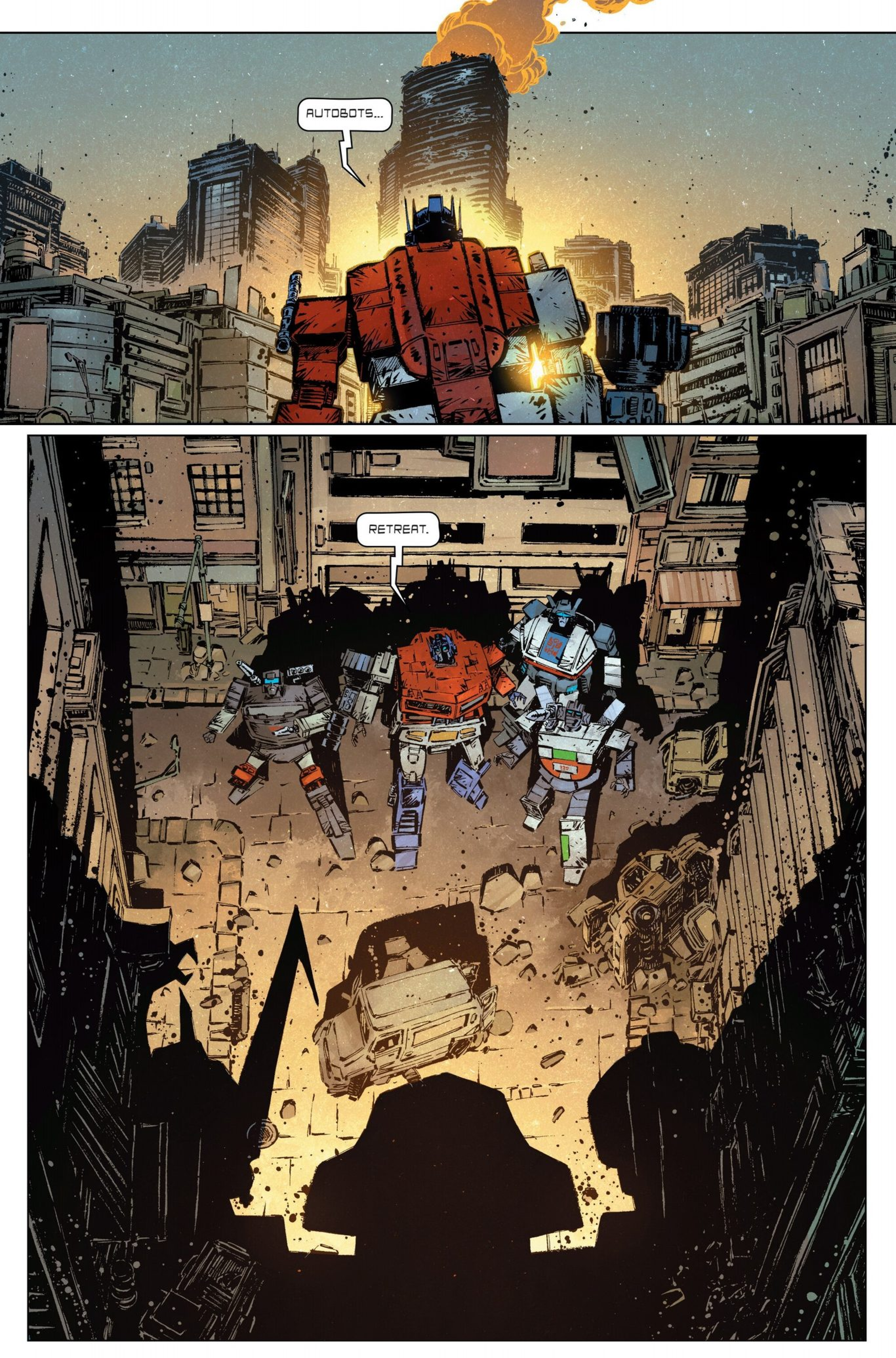

ENOUGH.
M-MEGATRON...?
HOW DID Y--


BE SILENT.
MEGATRON...
SHWNOKKKKKAZZZZT


GROOOWLL
WHAT A GOOD SOLDIER YOU ARE, SMALL THING.
AND WHAT A FAITHFUL SERVANT YOUR FATHER IS.


MY MASTER.


ASTROTRAIN! QUICKLY! TAKE ME AWAY FROM HERE!
NO.
GET UP, SOUNDWAVE.
THERE IS MUCH WORK TO BE DONE.


AUTOBOTS...
RETREAT.

THE MATRIX OF LETTERSHIP

SEND LETTERS TO
TRANSFORMERS@SKYBOUND.COM

Ohhhhhh daaaannnng! Is your jaw still on the floor? I know mine is...for the last MONTH! What an amazing finale to arc three, right?! Ben Abernathy joining you once more and the mastermind behind these mind-boggling 18 issues joins me once again--Daniel Warren Johnson!

No, no, no, no. Pretend I'm not here. The wonders of this issue lie COMPLETELY with Jorge and Mike, who brought the absolute FIRE OF THE GALAXY to these pages. I get to come up with cool ideas with my Transformers toys, but I only have to write them down. I'd like you all to take a moment and turn back to the panel of us seeing Bruticus and Devastator falling out of the sky THROUGH THE REFLECTION IN THE BUILDING BEHIND OPTIMUS. I DID NOT COME UP WITH THAT SHOT. That is master class storytelling, full stop. Thank you Jorge, thank you Mike, thank you Rus, thank you BEN, for keeping us all on track! 'Til all are one? WE ARE ONE ALREADY.

* * *

Hello Transformers Team,

Growing up, I was always a G.I. Joe kid. While I had a few Transformers toys here and there, the property never drew me in like the Joes did. I share this because I picked up Transformers #1 based around Daniel Warren Johnson's art alone, and I have been blown away by the quality of the title ever since. What's more, it's delightful how well the entire Energon line is creating a thoughtful, interconnected universe!

Now...with the compliments out of the way...I have one gripe. It's weird to me that as depicted across all Energon titles, Transformers characters who have never been to Earth still take the form of cars and planes from a planet light years away. That seems a little silly to me, especially given how much work has clearly gone into fleshing out every Energon book. Is there a reason we don't see the original robot forms of the Transformers on Cybertron? I think it would be cool to let the artists explore that a bit...

Nerdy nitpicking aside, great work all around!

Alex
St. Louis, MO

I would say we're seeing the "original robot" forms in every issue and it's just the alt modes on Earth that were changed. From the limited times we've seen alt modes of bots on Cybertron, they do match the Energon Universe "version" (like Elita-1) that Teletraan 1 hasn't yet altered.

Thanks Alex! It's always great to hear I was able to coerce another soul into the Matrix! Welcome to the fold!

* * *

Hey there, DWJ and the squad!

I can't wait to see what you've got next. I got back into Transformers last year, coincidentally around the same time you started writing this new series, and I've been hooked ever since. It's amazing how many iconic moments you've given us, and how wicked the Decepticons are, alongside how cool the Autobots can be! I'm genuinely curious, will we be seeing lesser-known characters like Dogfight (who I only found out about by pure chance) or the Stunticons? I really want to see how you'd do someone like Motormaster.

I feel bad for Ravage, poor guy keeps getting the short end of the stick. Thundercracker is a really interesting character, and Optimus Prime has been a consistent scene-stealer the whole time. Ultra Magnus's scenes make me feel rather melancholic, I feel bad for the poor guy.

Ethan

Man, I'm glad you name dropped one of my favorite Decepticons! Motormaster was a name I tried to get into this arc but he couldn't fit. But who knows...maybe next...? Also, I always felt kind of bad for Ultra Magnus ever since he got shredded on that trash planet in the TF animated movie. I kind of wanted to go all out on those feelings, so yeah, poor Magnus. Maybe his luck will turn around soon...but probably not.

* * *

Hi,

Cliffjumper's back! That's great. I believe he was actually my first Transformer as a kid, so I've been very happy to have him take over the Bumblebee role.

I am in general just very impressed with how you have been building such a complex tapestry of moral feelings and decisions into this book. It's the outliers on each team, Thundercracker as the wavering Decepticon, Prime as the resurgingly-violent PTSD-having Autobot, or Elita and the Cybertronian Autobots as the cold-blooded survivors, that really take this out of G1 cartoonland, while simultaneously giving us all that wonderful G1 visual joy.

Next issue should be awesome, with this

climactic battle coming up. But that could be said of every issue!

Chris Wildrick

Thanks, Chris! I gotta (again) hand that compliment off to Jorge, who is bringing that beautiful G1 chunk to the pages. From his first issue, it was clear that he GOT IT.

What's up guys?! I don't normally write in to things like this, but this comic series has been such a constant stream of joy in mine and my boyfriend's lives that I felt the need to say thank you.

As both of us live in Florida, we immediately fell in love with Beachcomber and he has easily become our favorite character. We love that he cares for our beaches and oceans, something us Floridians deeply care for, too. Please keep up the incredible work as we patiently wait for every issue like dogs for scraps at the dinner table.

Carrie Copelin / Nasser Davis.
Melbourne FL

Carrie! So glad you're vibing our blue boy! He's tough to write, but the payoff is so fulfilling once I figure him out. I want my two kids to grow up on a safe and beautiful Earth, so sometimes I think of them while I write his dialogue. Take care!

Hello there, I'm a long-time fan of the Transformers since I was young watching G1 with my dad--loved watching it with him. I just finished issue 16 and my goodness seeing Megatron I quite literally squealed with excitement. Ok onto my questions... Number 1, will we ever see any references to any Beast Wars characters? Number 2, will Cliff ever get back to Earth in any capacity like maybe in the Void Rivals series or maybe in a one-shot special or in the Free Comic Book Day comic? Number 3, will Bumblebee get revived into Goldbug like in G1? Number 4, will we ever see any other Combiners like Aerialbots, Computron, or any of the others? My other question for you is do any of y'all have a favorite Transformers character it could be either Autobot, Decepticon...

I hope this finds you well; 'til all are one.

Tim

1. ***Not in my run, but I can't speak for whomever may come after me! (I do love Beast Wars, though)***
2. ***I CANNOT SAY, GOOD SIR***
3. ***I LOVE Goldbug, soooooo maybe. But maybe not. Actually...hmm...***
4. ***Combiners are one of my favorite parts of the TF universe :)***
5. ***BORING I KNOW, but it's Optimus. Second might be Bluestreak or Grimlock...but man I really love Starscream too...***

My 10-year-old son is now a massive fan of this series, too (I convinced him to try vol. 1 and he's HOOKED) and he asked me this same question recently...and I think it would be Jazz and Thundercracker (my very first toys! Although I think I've contradicted myself from answering this in an earlier letter column haha).

Hello Transformers Skybound!!

This is by far one of my favorite comic runs, the writing and art is superb. I was wondering, are Skywarp and Thundercracker siblings, sparkmates, or just good buddies in this universe? Thundercracker seems to be hit quite hard by his dismantling, more so than them just being teammates as the rest of the 'cons don't seem that perturbed by the whole thing. I'm really enjoying the relationships you're writing (Cee and Magnus, Carly and Cliff, Screamer and his Kitty, which is especially excellent as a cat owner). Thank you for this fabulous run, and I really hope we get the Optimus with Megatron's arm and Starscream (with kitty) as figures!

Elijah Wylie

Thanks for shouting out Starscream's new pet, Elijah! As far as Sky and Thunder are concerned, I didn't want to say explicitly what their relationship was. It feels more fun (for now) to have it be open and let people interpret it for themselves. I will say that Thundercracker feels more "grey" than a lot of his Deception brothers. Why is that? Time shall tell!

Well, here we are at the end of ANOTHER arc! I'm not sure how I did it, honestly. This book is amazing and I love working on it, but it's also so much work. It feels amazing, though, to look back and read through all this and just be...proud. I still can't believe I get to do this as a job. What the heck would eight-year-old me say???? There's more fun on the way, and believe me, you should get excited now. Next month, we get a special look back at our favorite bad guy! See you in 30 for some galactic adventures with MEGS! Love you all! Be good to each other!

-DWJ

Thank you for the continued support and please keep those letters rolling in...and next month is going to he INSANE! Buckle up!

-Ben

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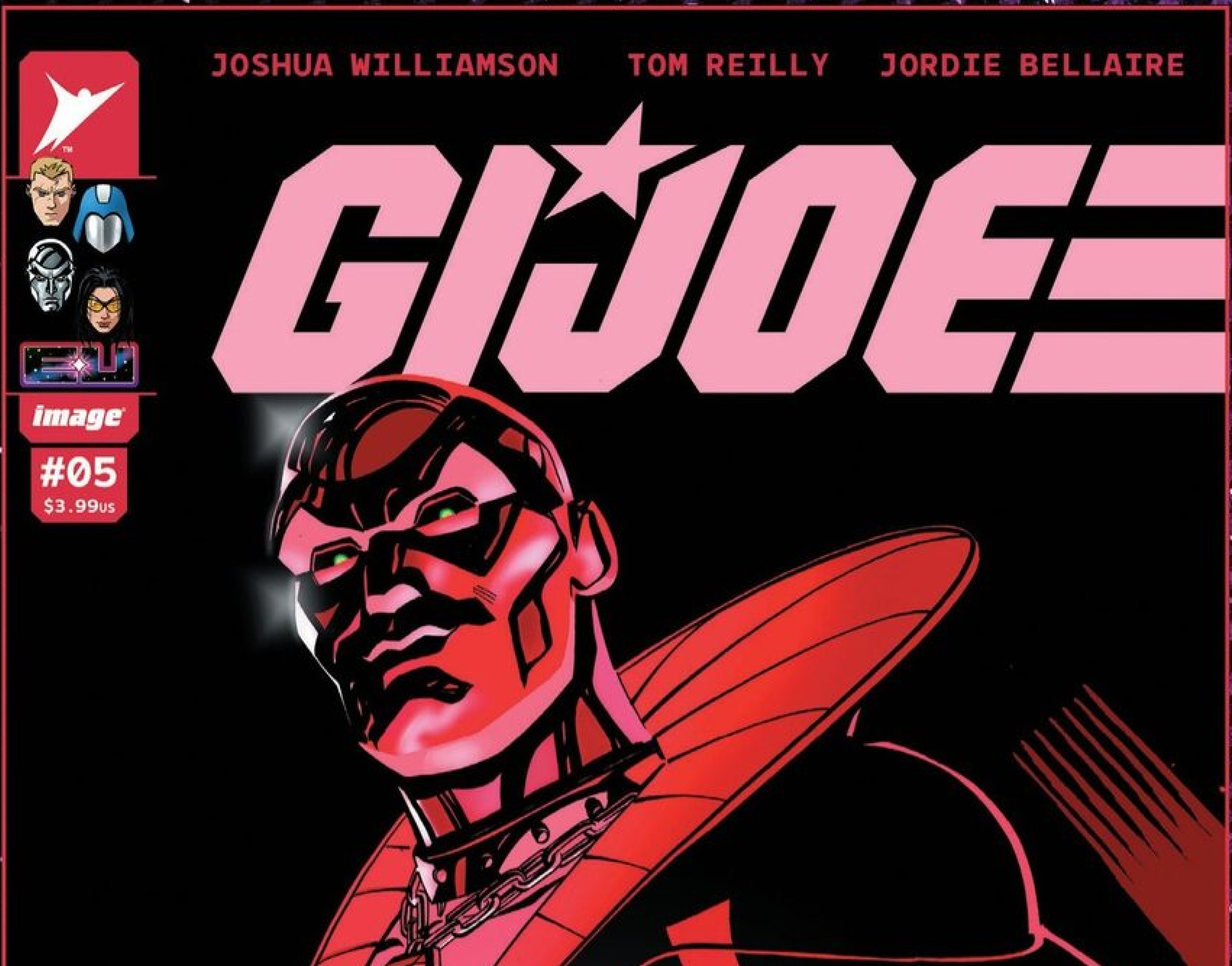
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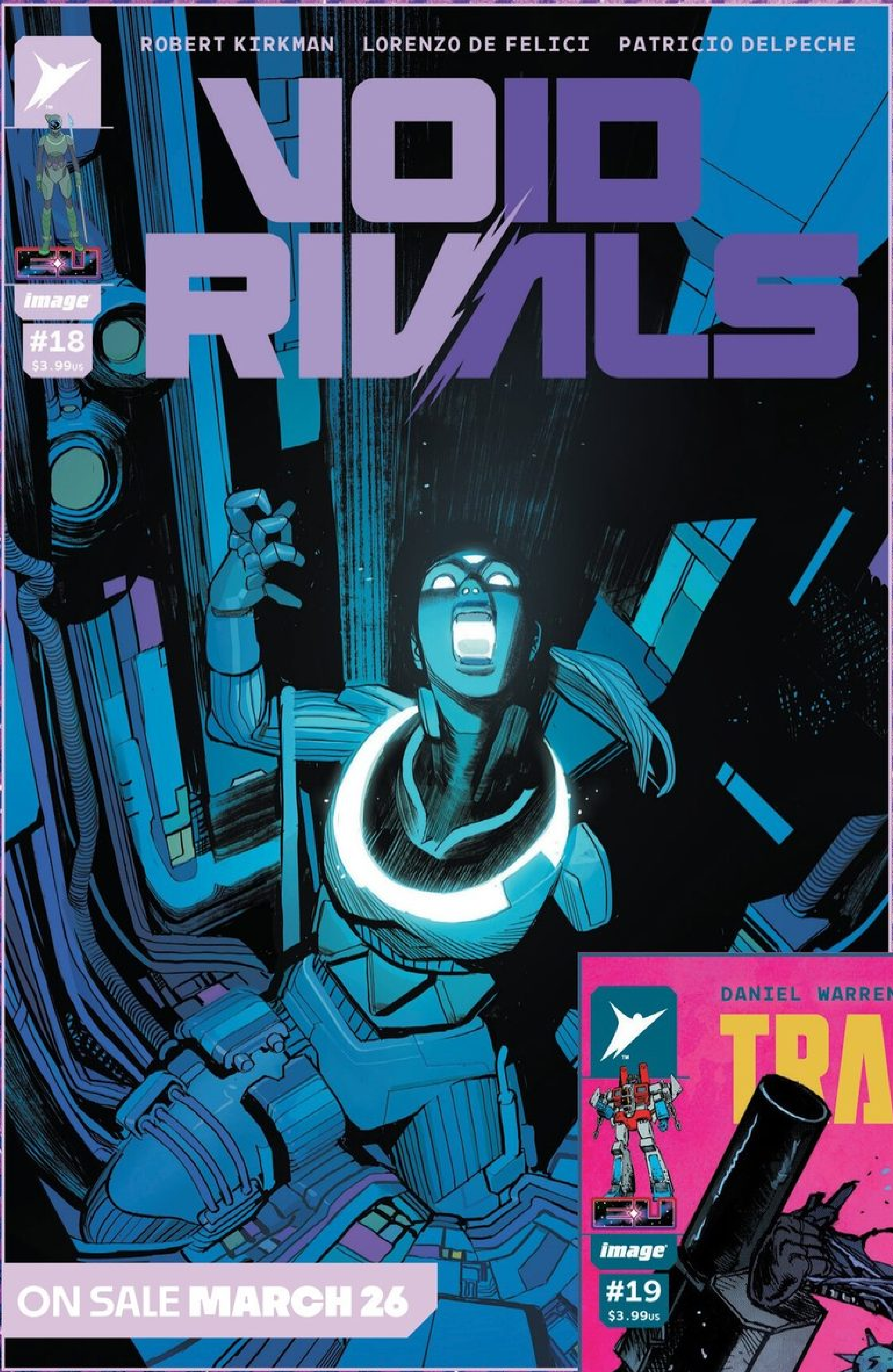
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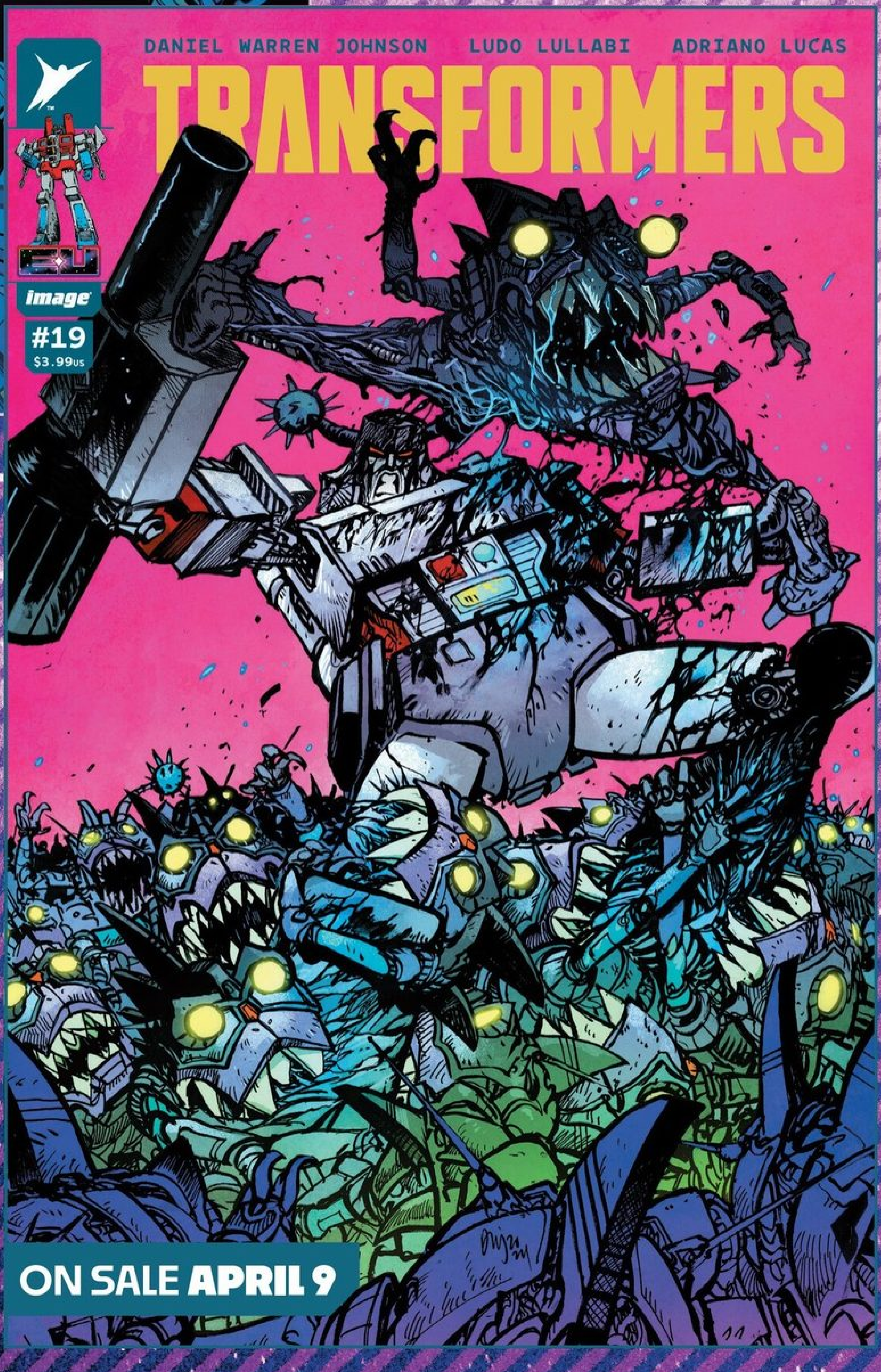
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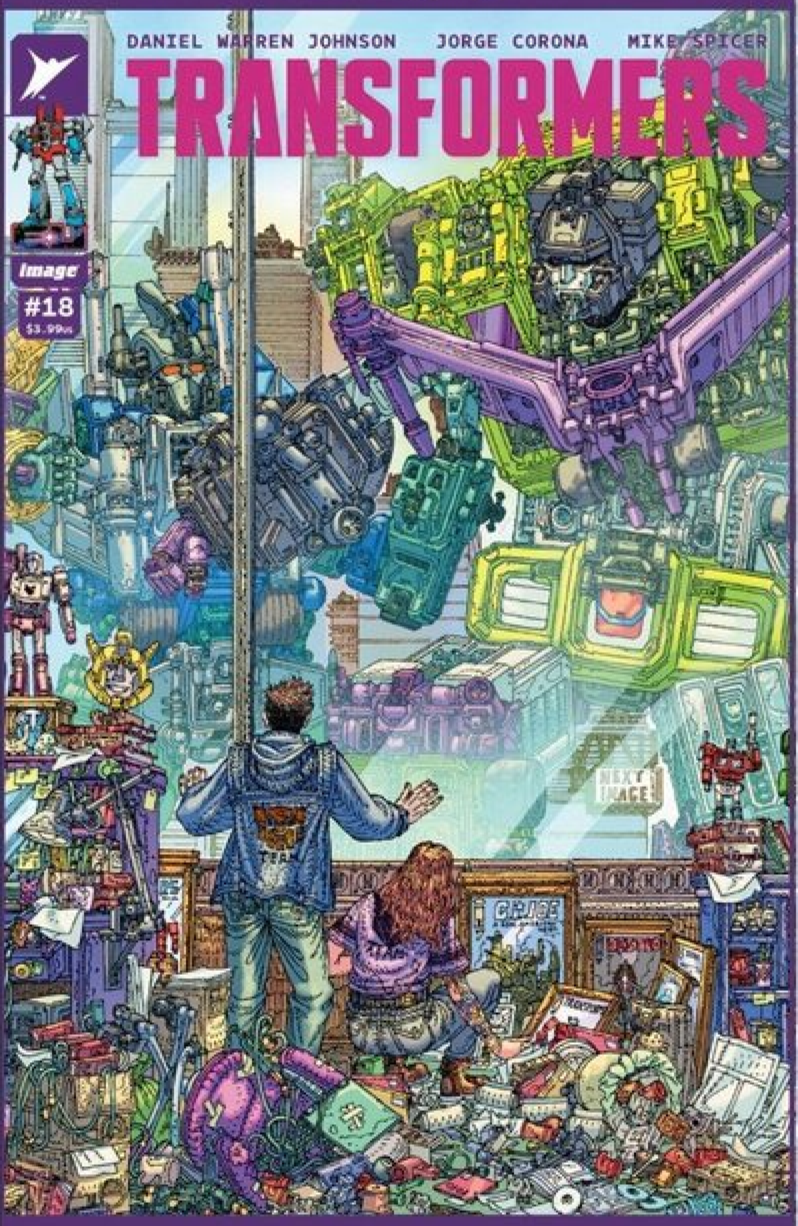
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